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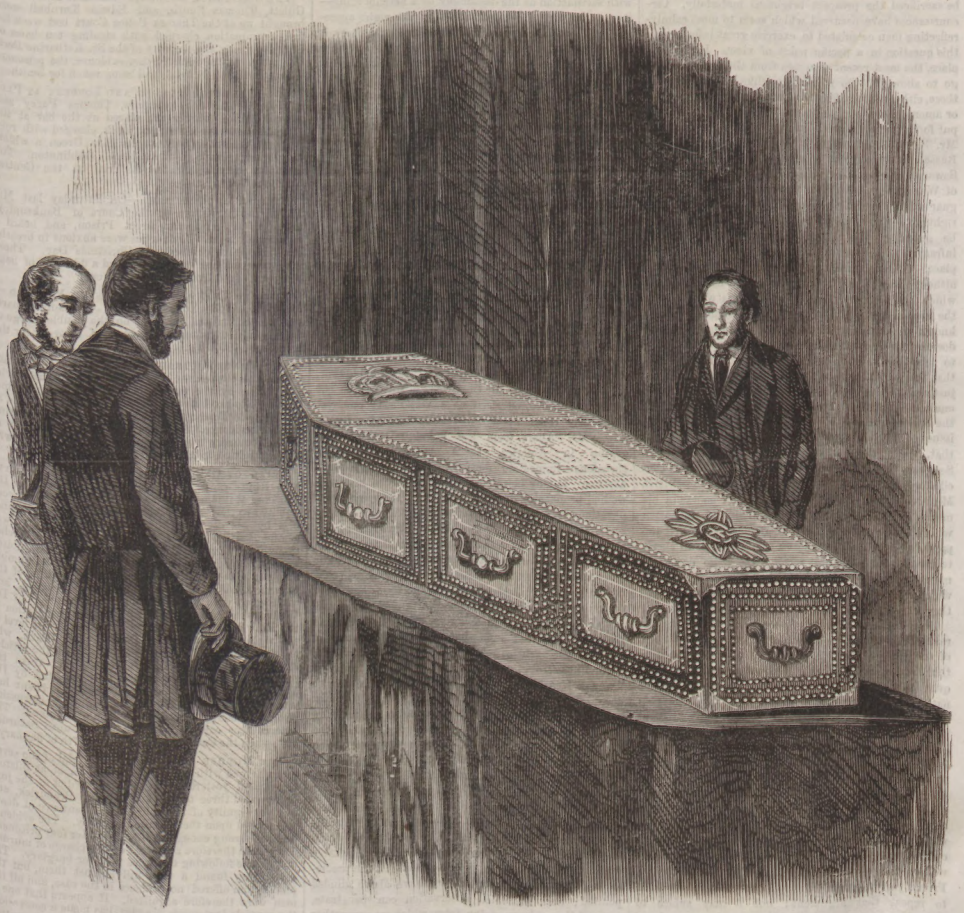
THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER

WITH ALL THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

No. 12.] LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861. [Vol. 1.

Topics of the Week.

It the character of the late Prince Consort has been truly estimated, and the consentaneousness of opinion on the point gives presumption that it has been rightly judged of, the mode in which the feeling of the country on Monday last, and especially of the metropolis, was displayed was peculiarly appropriate. Grave, decorous, simple, but universal was the tribute which was offered to the hour when the last rites of humanity were paid to him who has gone. If some person unknowing the melancholy cause had suddenly appeared in this vast city, he would have been at once struck with the sensible marks of some visitation of Providence having fallen amongst us which had caused an almost total cessation of the business and the bustle of life at a season when both are generally most active. The customary symptoms of mourning were everywhere apparent. Every shop was partially, many wholly, closed; the windows of every private house exhibited



FUNERAL OF THE LATE PRINCE ALBERT.—THE COFFIN.

the same aspect as when private sorrow has come upon its inhabitants. The tolling of the bells of the churches seemed in unison with the subdued and quiet demeanour of the comparatively few passers through the streets. In contemplating the details of that relatively plain and unostentatious funeral which took place in the edifice to which the Monarchs of England are borne in death, the interest centres in the family and household grief which would have its way and with the bereaved children who sobbed around that grave. All England grieved for the father, the husband, and the man, and forgot for the moment that it was a high and illustrious Prince who had filled the loftiest station but one in this land over whom the tomb has closed too soon.

Having done true and fitting homage to him who was the honoured husband of the Queen, the nation, obedient to that inexorable law which forbids any pause in the career of life, public and private, and scarcely affords opportunity for looking back, has returned to the consideration of affairs so important as those which press upon England at the present moment. Of course the very first and most prime object which demands notice and discussion is the position of that which, using a cant phrase, we may call the American crisis. And here it is satisfactory to be able to say that to those who have looked forward to an armed dispute between this country and the Federal States as a calamity to the averting of which everything save honour should be sacrificed the prospect brightens materially. Circumstances have occurred which seem to most calmly-reflecting men calculated to exercise great influence on this question in a pacific point of view. In the first place, the most recent accounts from the United States go to show that no positive warlike feeling prevails there, either among official and responsible functionaries or among the people at large. A statement has been put forth that a despatch has arrived in London from Mr. Seward replying to a communication from Earl Russell on the subject of neutral rights, in which Mr. Seward assures our Foreign Secretary that the Cabinet of Washington, faithful to its past policy, is ready to guarantee to neutrals every facility compatible with the rights of belligerents, and that satisfaction will legally be given by the Federal Government in case an infraction of the rule adopted in common should take place. It is important to observe that this despatch, although bearing a date anterior to that of the demand which has been sent from England, was written after the arrest of the Confederate Commissioners became known in America. If there be any meaning in this document, composed after an event which was calculated to raise the very questions to which it relates, it is that the Federal authorities are prepared to yield to a just and fair interpretation of international law. No one could desire a better spirit than this to prevail in the breasts of those in whose hands just now rest the issues of peace and war. Again, a rumour is current that, while the despatch of the English Foreign Secretary is in its terms decisive, yet its tone is conciliatory, and directions have been given to the British Minister at Washington to adopt such a course in his mode of performing the delicate and anxious duty with which he is charged as will render it nearly impossible that any difference on minor and, so to speak, technical points should arise. These no doubt are mere statements borne along that invisible telegraph which carries gossip insensibly through the world, and they must be taken for what they are worth.

But no such hesitancy of acceptance applies to the remarkable fact of the diplomatic circular on the subject of the affair of the Trent which has been issued by the French Government. If we were dealing with a question which concerned old-world governments and nations merely, we should say at once that this step was as nearly as possible decisive of the matter at issue; and, even with an Executive and a people so peculiarly constituted as those of the American States, it is hardly conceivable that the declaration of such a Power as France, unequivocal and spontaneous as it is, should not be conclusive. M. Thouvenel, in the first place, discusses the subject from a purely abstract and argumentative point of view, and comes to a result which is so entirely accordant with that of public opinion in England that for once we might have been well content to have left our case in the hands of a French jurist and politician. It is not necessary here to repeat that argument; but it may suffice to add the necessary corollary in the very words of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France. They are these:—"The Cabinet of Washington cannot, without encroaching on principles to which all neutral Powers are interested in ensuring respect, nor without placing itself in contradiction with its own conduct up to this day, give its approbation to the act of the San Jacinto." In another part of M. Thouvenel's despatch he says that with which all thinking and sensible men will agree—namely, that the Federal Government will act, according to a just and elevated sentiment, by granting the demands of the British Government; and he seems, in common with the great majority of those who have considered this subject, to find it difficult to understand what probable advantage the United States could calculate on in running the risk of a rupture with Great Britain? We have heard something, not, as we conceive, by any means too much, of arbitration in the pending dispute between this country and the Federal States. Here is arbitration of the most practical and direct description. It is the deliberate opinion of a Government manifestly disinterested in the immediate quarrel which is imminent, a Government of the very first intellectual and political rank, representing the power of a nation which ranged by the side of England, and, adopting a common cause with her, could make the law of the world instead of interpreting it. Surely, there is much if not everything in this act which tends to take the question between England and America out of the region of sentiment and passion, and to place it upon the social ground of presumptive obligation and duty; and so far it ought to do, and must do, good. As regards its reception in this country, there can be but one opinion. It must be universally hailed with satisfaction as the testimony of a neighbouring—it may be a rival—Government to the right apprehension by this country of the matter; and there is no one among us but will rejoice to believe that by the course thus taken by the French Government the law has received an accession of moral force which ought to make its authority irresistible at Washington. It must be regarded as a powerful means to the end for which every one of us has hoped—peace with our brethren across the water, but always consistently with the honour of our country.

If we have read auguries aright, there is a prospect of a brighter opening of the new year than could well have been anticipated. In strong contrast to the severe weather of this time last year, there is nothing in the atmospheric influences to bring about an abnormal condition of distress such as prevailed at the Christmas of 1860. No special cry of suffering has gone forth, and if there be less buoyancy in trade and a somewhat contracted condition of our commerce, yet if we are so happy as to have averted from us the giant pressure of war, with all its miserable and inevitable consequences, we may hope for a spring and summer of a far different character to that which alone we could have hitherto anticipated. It is probable that, for obvious reasons, our Christmas of this year is not likely to be characterised as a very merry one, yet there may come upon us the blessings of a happy new year. Apart from the unhappy contest now raging in America, there is nothing which threatens immediate disturbance to the political horizon. It may be remembered that not so long ago we had prophecies without number of European complications, and the early spring was, we were told, to see the sword drawn somewhere and by somebody on the Continent. So far as regards France it would seem that she has appeared in the somewhat novel character of a peacemaker, and we are happy to welcome her in that character; and, in other respects, she seems bent only on setting in order her somewhat disarranged Exchequer, a task which, if not insuperable, will yet occupy no little time, and tax somewhat severely the powers of her financial agencies. Then, if we turn to Austria, we find her struggling in the meshes of something very like a national bankruptcy, and, so far, bound over to keep the peace. On the other hand, the financial programme of the new Italian kingdom seems to be on the whole satisfactory and encouraging; while the vexed portions of the great Italian question which remain seem for the moment to have fallen into abeyance; and perhaps those who wish most well to the cause of Italy as a whole will not be sorry if opportunity is taken to develop the resources of that new kingdom whose boundaries have not yet been definitively settled, but the ultimate culmination of which may be safely left to the operation of an inevitable destiny. It was to these three nations that the predictions of the seers to which we have above alluded pointed; and, as far as observation can penetrate, none of them give any sign from which we can gather that in this hemisphere the peace which is so much to be desired, and which is an attribute of the peculiar season which we have this week been enjoying, will be broken. One of the legacies which has been left to us by the Prince who has just departed from our midst is to be found in that gathering of the arts and industry of all nations which is to mark the annals of 1862. It is meant to be a type of that condition of men which is comprehended in universal peace and goodwill. Let us hope that the affairs of the world, notwithstanding many obstacles which now exist towards such a consummation, may be so ordered that this time next year, instead of looking back on a series of troubles and turmoils, and international dissensions, the record may be such a one as will be a satisfaction to the existing generation and an example to posterity.

Law and Police.

BREAKING THROUGH THE RANKS OF VOLUNTEERS.—At the Southwark Police Court last week John Seaker, a catsmeat-dealer, was charged with attempting to drive a horse and cart through the ranks of the London Rifle Brigade. Ensign Allen, of the London Rifle Brigade, stated that, when proceeding down Charlotte-street, to turn into the Blackfriars-road, the defendant drove towards the regiment with his horse and cart, and endeavoured to force his way through. His conduct was very violent, and, to prevent a repetition of such behaviour, the commanding officer directed the present proceedings. Corroborative evidence having been adduced, Mr. Combe fined the defendant 20s. and 2s. costs, and in default of payment committed him for a month to hard labour.

THE GREAT SILK ROBBERY.—James Hunter, James Gillett, Thomas Smith, and Edwin Turnbull were brought up at the Thames Police Court last week for final examination, charged with stealing ten bales of China raw silk, the property of the St. Katharine Dock Company. After some further evidence, the prisoners were committed for trial, bail being taken for Smith.

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AND ROBBERY AT PADDINGTON.—The two prisoners, Thomas Puzey and George Reeves, were again placed at the bar at the Marylebone Police Court, last week, charged with robbery and the attempt to murder Mrs. Green, a widow lady, residing at 5, Fulham-place, Paddington. The prisoners were committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS.—On Saturday last Mr. Miller, the Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy, attended at Whitecross-street Prison, and heard a number of cases. The parties were anxious to breathe the atmosphere of liberty on Christmas Day. Those who were confined on that day had a donation of beef, beer, and bread from the Lord Mayor.

ALLEGED FRAUD ON THE BANK OF ENGLAND.—Mr. Henry Wells Young, solicitor, Gray's-inn-square, has been committed for trial on the double charge of forging and uttering two powers of attorney for the transfer of £5600 Bank Stock.

THE TRADE OUTRAGE AT SHEFFIELD.—The adjourned inquest on the body of Bridget O'Rourke, who was killed by the explosion of an infernal machine, thrown into her bedroom on the 23rd ult., was held at the Sheffield Townhall on Friday week. After hearing further evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the prisoner Thompson, who was committed to take his trial.

TRIAL OF ONE OF THE WRITERS OF "ESSAYS AND REVIEWS."—The long-pending suit against Dr. Rowland Williams for the article on prophecy he contributed to the "Essays and Reviews," brought against him by his diocesan, the Bishop of Salisbury, was commenced before Dr. Lushington, in the Arches Court, on Thursday week. The articles exhibited against him are very long, setting forth a great number of quotations from the essay, with the Articles of the Church to which it is alleged they are opposed, and winding up with the allegation that the object of Dr. Williams in the essay was to deny the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, and to reduce them to the level of the writings of Milton or Luther. Dr. Deane, who appeared for Dr. Williams, contended that the articles charged against his client were many of them the opinions of Baron Bunsen, and only reported by Dr. Williams. Further, he contended that his client had not trespassed on the liberty of thought and discussion allowed to clergymen of the Church of England. The defence was continued by Dr. Deane until Saturday last, when the Court adjourned till the 7th of January.

THE MURDER AT BILSTON.—The trial of the seven men charged with the murder of Mr. Bagot, at Bilston, terminated yesterday week. The verdict of the jury pronounced three of the men—Jones, Brandrick, and Maddox—guilty of the murder, and sentence of death was passed upon them in the usual way. The evidence was not strong enough against the other four prisoners. They were therefore acquitted on the charge of murder, and on the following day were tried for burglary. The grand jury found a true bill against them, but the prosecution offered no evidence in the case, and all the men were therefore acquitted. It appears that one of the convicted prisoners, Maddox, has made a confession. He declares that the four men who have been acquitted had no hand either in the murder or the burglary; that the three who were convicted, including himself, were alone concerned in them; though he alleges that he did not touch Bagot, but he saw his companions murder him.

Home News.

The Court.—Her Majesty, who is at Osborne, continues to bear up under her severe bereavement. From time to time we receive accounts of the meetings of town councils, vestries, and public institutions held to present addresses of condolence to her Majesty on the death of the Prince. The newspapers from the country tell the same tale, being filled with the reports of meetings held in their own localities for the same purpose. It would, of course, be impossible to publish a tithe of them; and we only notice the circumstance to show how wide and spontaneous is the feeling of regret evinced by all classes, in all parts of the kingdom, at the great loss which her Majesty has sustained.

The Death of the Prince Consort was made the subject of funeral discourses in all the churches and chapels of the metropolis on Sunday; and similar services were held throughout the country generally. Eloquent tributes were paid to the character and services of the illustrious deceased, and both the religious edifices and the congregations assembled therein were covered with the symbols of mourning, to an extent which has never been exceeded, and which showed how universal was the feeling of sorrow that prevailed. In many instances the buildings were so crowded that the doors or gates had to be closed soon after the services began. In another part of the Paper we give a full account of the funeral, embellished with finely-engraved Illustrations.

Proposed Embankment for the South Side of the Thames.—The Commission for inquiring into the propriety of embanking the south side of the Thames met last Saturday. Mr. F. Doulton was one of the principal witnesses examined. He showed forcibly the evils which were entailed upon the poor population of Lambeth and the neighbouring riverside districts, as well as upon the wharfingers, by the floodings which now periodically take place. These evils would be effectually removed by an embankment. He argued that the south side was the more entitled to the improvement when it was remembered that the coal tax, towards which it paid largely, had been applied to the embankment of the north side. The Commission was again adjourned.

Heroic Conduct of a Young Lady.—The Royal Humane Society have given their bronze medal to Miss Chubb for saving the life of Ellen Cowley on the 16th of July last, near Onchan, in the Isle of Man. In rescuing a fellow-creature from being drowned in the sea, Miss Chubb evinced great courage and presence of mind, and ran no trifling risk of being herself carried out of her depth.

The Difficulty with America.—We learn that in Manchester there is still much uneasiness, arising out of the uncertainty about a war with America. Some of our manufacturers dread the effects, not only which would arise directly from a war, but the evil influence which would be produced by hopes being revived of a supply of cotton from the Southern States of America. They believe that cotton cannot be produced in any part of the world to compete with that which is slave-grown, and that capitalists will see no security for their capital in new fields of produce if there is a probability of the blockade being raised. They say that such prices as are now paid at Liverpool will bring cotton from all parts of the world where it can be raised; and, hoping that the Southern secession must end in the abolition of slavery, they think that now or never we must be emancipated from our main dependence upon one source of supply. The *Critic* says:—"We have reason to believe that, up to the time of his death, the Prince Consort raised his voice energetically against the haste with which England is rushing into a war with the United States—an event which he denounced as subversive of her interests, dangerous to the real sources of her power, and certain to be advantageous only to the despotic Powers of Europe. Whether that view was right or wrong, such, we believe, was the faith in which the Prince Consort died."

Relief to the Poor on Christmas Day.—In all the workhouses of the metropolis dinners were on Christmas Day given to the inmates. The fare was generally roast beef and plum-pudding. In various ecclesiastical districts relief was administered out of doors to great numbers of persons in destitute circumstances.

"Boxing Day."—Thursday being Boxing Day was, according to long-established custom, devoted to recreation and pleasure by the hard-working Londoners. The places of public amusement open during the day were crowded with old and young. In the evening the theatres were filled to excess, and clown and pantaloon, harlequin and columbine, maintained their long-established prestige; and a general chorus of involuntary laughter, from old as well as young, testified to the success of the pantomimes.

A Deadly Encounter.—An extraordinary disturbance arose in Edmonds's menagerie at Newcastle last Saturday night. The exhibition was closed, and the majority of the men employed about the caravans had repaired to their lodgings at a neighbouring inn. A policeman who was passing heard a loud crash in a caravan, which proved to be one occupied by a Bengal tiger, followed by the noise of a fierce struggle. In a very short time the men were called from their lodgings, and, having obtained lights, about a dozen of them entered the menagerie. It was feared that the tiger, which is known to be a most ferocious beast, had broken through the bars of its cage, and was at large in the area; but, on approaching the caravan where it was usually confined, the men saw that the enraged animal had broken through a wooden partition into an adjoining cage containing a single panther, with which it was engaged in a terrible combat. An iron bar was brought into requisition, and the tiger was strongly belaboured with a view to driving him back into his compartment and rescuing the panther from his clutches. These means, however, only exasperated the royal beast still further, and, after a fearful fight of not less than ten minutes' duration, he succeeded in seizing the exhausted panther by the throat in his powerful jaws, and held him with bulldog tenacity until he was quite dead. The tiger then, as if satisfied that his work was completed, walked quietly into his own compartment, and allowed a new partition board to be thrust between himself and the body of his vanquished antagonist. The scene is described as one of great excitement among those who witnessed the encounter; but, strange to relate, notwithstanding the unusual disturbance among their fellow-prisoners, all the other animals in the large collection lay perfectly quiet in their cages. The panther which was valued at one hundred guineas, was taken out quite dead: and the tiger is said to be the animal that killed a lioness in London some time ago.

St. Martin's Hall is added to the list of halls which have been opened for special religious services for the working classes on Sundays.

The Advocates of Temperance held an important meeting at the Mansion House on Thursday week. The Lord Mayor occupied the chair, and, although not committing himself to the principle of total abstinence, he expressed his sympathy with the movement. Speeches were delivered by Mr. B. Scott, the City Chamberlain, Dr. Carpenter, Mr. S. Morley, Mr. S. Bowly, and Mr. Gurney, M.P.

The O'Donoghue, M.P., who made his appearance in Dublin lately at a meeting called to express the joy of a certain class at the prospect of a rupture between England and America, has been removed from the commission of the peace by order of the Lord Chancellor. The order of removal will hardly excite surprise, as the conduct of The O'Donoghue was, to say the least of it, indecent and inconsistent.

Cobden on the American Difficulty.—A letter of Mr. Cobden has been published, in answer to a request to attend a meeting at Brighton, held for the purpose of advocating arbitration in the existing dispute with America. Mr. Cobden takes as the basis of his argument the principle which was sanctioned by the great Powers at the Paris Conference of 1856. That declaration was, that on any misunderstanding arising between any States they should, "before appealing to arms, have recourse, as far as circumstances would allow, to the good offices of a friendly Power." Mr. Cobden deems this argument directly applicable to the present case, and he argues that the British Government should, in case of a refusal to give up Messrs. Slidell and Mason, propose to submit the dispute to arbitration, and then, if this proposal should meet with no better response than a desire to insult and wrong us, we should be united as one man to repel the outrage." Mr. Cobden holds that the "cry for peace is hardly enough at the present time. What we require is peace on the principles of impartial justice."

Gossip.

About the time of the expected invasion at the beginning of the century, some of the town magistrates called upon an old maiden lady of Montrose, and solicited her subscription to raise men for the service of the King. "Indeed," she answered right sturdily, "I'll doe nae sic thing; I never could raise a man for mysel, and I'm no gaen to raise men for King George."

It is often a subject of remark that the left barrel of a gun bursts so much more frequently than the right, while, as is well known, the right-hand barrel is the most used. This bursting may be prevented by ramming down the charge in the left barrel every time the right is fired, as, when the right is used several times in succession, the wadding in the left is separated from the charge, and a vacuum ensues between them, which, on firing the second barrel, frequently causes an explosion.

Twelve thousand pounds per annum is said to be the grant of Government to the Opéra Comique of Paris, and this does not appear to be sufficiently encouraging to the manager.

Value of a Dead Horse in London.—Hair, from 8d. to 1s.—used for haircloth mattresses in crushing seed in oil-mills. Hide and tendons, 8s.—leather, glue, gelatine. Flesh, £1 8s.—meat for men, dogs, and poultry. Heart and tongue—a mystery. Intestines—covering sausages and the like. Fat, 3s. 4d.—used for lamps after distilling. Bones, 4s. 6d. per cwt.—knife-handles, phosphorus, and superphosphate of lime. Hoofs, 8s. to 10s.—buttons and gelatine. Shoes, 2s. to 3s.—old iron. Total value, from £2 17s. 6d. to £3 4s. 10d.—*Scottish Farmer.*

One of the correspondents of the *Débats* gives the following as a curious specimen of the tolerance of the police authorities of Warsaw, being a permission signed by the Prefect of Police:—"I authorise the bearer of the present card, M——, to carry a cane, even with an iron ferule at the end, and this on account of his advanced age and the weakness of his legs.—Pilsudski."

ENGLISH MAIL-SHIPS MAKING WAY THROUGH THE ICE IN HALIFAX HARBOUR.

The chief object of all our recent and extensive military preparations is to put Canada into a better state of defence than she is now in before war can actually break out; and whether or no this can really be done depends upon the greater or less severity of this particular winter. If it be even ordinarily severe there will be great difficulty in enabling our troops to reach their destination in time, while the matter will be altogether hopeless if the cold weather should be unusually early or unusually extreme. In the latter case they will be obliged to wait at St. John's, Newfoundland, and at Halifax (the subject of our Engraving) until spring, and in that case the Canadians will only have some five or six thousand British troops to defend them in addition to their native militia.

A correspondent at Halifax, Nova Scotia, obligingly furnished the accompanying Sketch, representing the English and Newfoundland mail-vessels belonging to Mr. Cunard making their way a year or two back through the ice in Halifax harbour. The cold at Halifax had for the preceding four or five days been more than usually severe, the thermometer falling 10 deg. below zero. The harbour, consequently, became coated with ice; and, when the English and Newfoundland mails made their appearance at the entrance, considerable interest was excited as to the possibility of their reaching their respective wharves. A small channel had, however, been kept open by the foresight of Mr. Cunard; and the Niagara, being the larger vessel, took the lead, the Newfoundland packet following closely in her wake. As the Niagara pushed slowly on, the ice lifted under her bows and burst with a loud noise; and after some difficulty both vessels, covered with ice, were safely moored. The scene is described as having been a most picturesque one, which excited great interest, the harbour not having been frozen for more than twenty years before.

Such scenes are now, or soon will be, of frequent occurrence, as our earliest detached ships reach the coast, and make all possible exertions to get in before the ice is too thick or too completely closed up.

DEPARTURE OF TROOPS FOR CANADA.

The 2nd battalion of the 16th Regiment embarked at Southampton last Saturday in the transport-steamer Magdalena, Captain R. Woolward, for service in Canada. The battalion arrived about half-past two o'clock by train from Farnborough, to which place they marched from Aldershott in the morning. The band of the Southampton Volunteer Rifle Corps assembled at the terminus to receive them; but the regiment's own band, which accompanied them, having received orders not to play on their march, in consequence of the death of the Prince Consort, it was deemed advisable that the volunteers should pursue the same course. The troops marched from the railway to the docks and went at once on board the Magdalena, which steamed out of dock immediately afterwards. Before four o'clock the gallant vessel was moving out into the roadstead, and as soon as her last warp was loosened the band on board struck up, and the troops exchanged cheers with the crowds on shore, which were continued until faint echoes could only be heard.

The facility with which the troops are now embarked at Southampton is remarkable, and is much greater than it was during the Crimean War. A regiment of soldiers will form in order of march in the large railway station-yard in that town within ten minutes after the train which has brought them to the station has stopped. The docks are only a few hundred yards from the station. The transport-steamers have all quay-berths with two wide gangways, one for the shipping of stores and the other for the embarkation of troops. Working parties of soldiers are told off to ship the stores. All the soldiers' berths are numbered, and each soldier has a card with the number of his berth on it, so that as soon as he gets on board he goes straight to his berth and deposits his rifle and kit.

The following are the names of the officers of the 16th who embarked in the Magdalena:—Lieut.-Col. C. Langley; Majors J. Henderson and C. L. de Winton; Captains H. Ximenes, J. R. Helyar, G. C. S. Lambard, W. L. Ingles, J. H. Crosse, A. D. Thomson, and R. J. Evans; Paymaster M. Feversham; Surgeon J. R. Pennell; Staff Assist. Surg. Saunders; Assist. Surg. J. R. Kelroe; Quartermaster J. Winter; Adj. and Lieut. H. Kelsall; Lieuts. C. W. Isdell, A. A. Pinsou, A. Neame, C. M. R. Reyne, F. Grant, J. Pyne, R. W. M. Wetherell, A. G. Cooch, and C. F. Busfield; Ensigns C. Platt, W. C. Griffith, G. R. A. Denne, G. Griffiths, R. B. Bald, S. J. Pullin, and J. M. Howes; 46 sergeants, 21 drummers, and 802 rank and file.

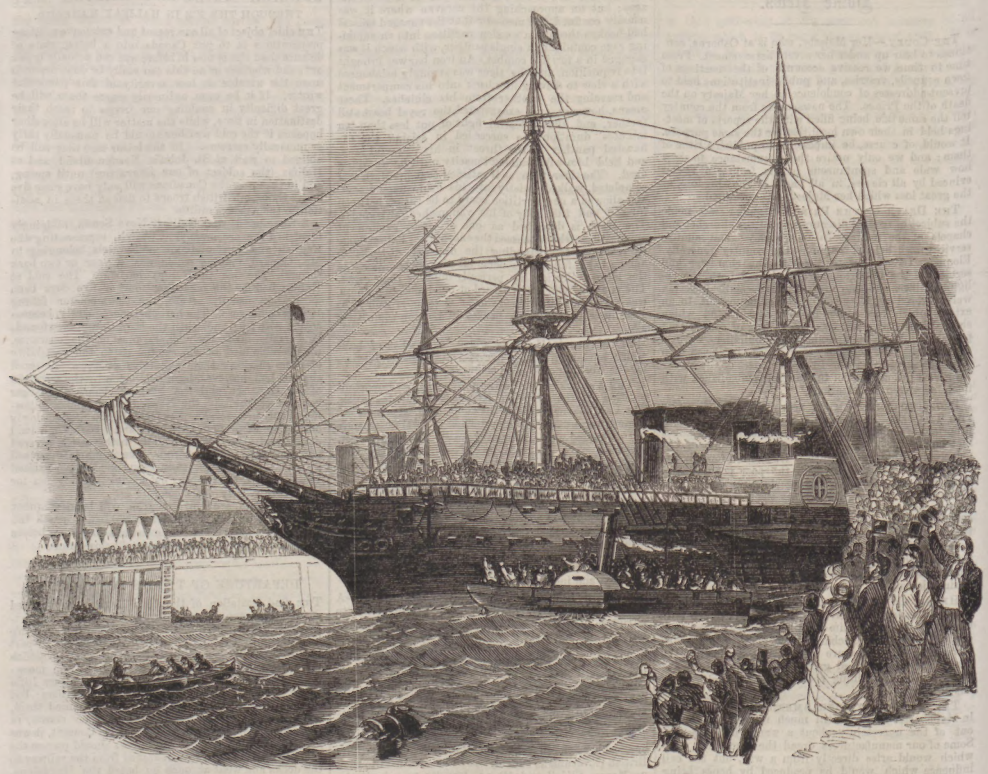
Lieuts. Price and Long and 30 men of the Royal Artillery have also gone out in this vessel.

The Magdalena finally left the river at six o'clock, and sailed direct for Halifax.

We give an Illustration of the departure from Southampton; and in the same page is an Engraving showing that the entrance of the Magdalena into Halifax harbour will be somewhat more difficult than was the departure from Southampton.

M. Lamartine, the illustrious French writer, and one of the Decemvirate during the last French revolution, intends visiting England next spring. He is seventy-two years of age.

The Prince Imperial, though only five years and a half old, already speaks three foreign languages—English, German and Italian.



DEPARTURE OF TROOPS FROM SOUTHAMPTON FOR CANADA.—SEE PRECEDING PAGE.

MAIL-SHIPS CUTTING THROUGH THE ICE IN HALIFAX HARBOUR.—SEE PRECEDING PAGE.

THE LATE PRINCE ALBERT'S MODEL FARM AT OSBORNE.—SEE NEXT PAGE.

PRINCE ALBERT'S MODEL FARM AT OSBORNE.

THE subjoined Engraving represents the buildings on a model farm constructed by his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort at Osborne, in the Isle of Wight; and for more perfect arrangement in all the details and necessary requirements of an agriculturist's homestall the traveller in this or any other country would search in vain. Not much can be said in favour of the soil in this particular locality — that is of its natural character; but the system of cultivation which has been adopted, both for the arable and for the meadow land, has shown the capabilities which the most unpromising ground possesses, by now yielding herbage and produce beyond the anticipation of the keenest speculator on agricultural success. The land, in fact, was poor, unproductive, and comparatively barren in many parts of the estate when it came into the possession of the Queen; and during the brief period of sixteen years' occupation—for brief it is to have effected such changes and improvements—the estate has undergone a metamorphosis which its former occupiers would have deemed beyond the range of possibility.

His Royal Highness first commenced with road-making and planting, both indispensable for useful and ornamental farming. With a keen prescience he foresaw the advantages to result from this first great outlay for improvements. The locality favoured his intentions, and numerous gravel-pits afforded him a superstratum for his roads, which, for solidity, width, and uniformity in appearance, cannot be surpassed. Well-made roads are the first essentials for good farming; and in this instance their value is of more than an ordinary character, for they extend over many miles, intersecting the estate in those parts most convenient for farming purposes, and yet forming ever-varied drives and scenery through which her Majesty can pass unmolested and unnoticed in the pure enjoyment of a rural life. Here she has shed an influence over her peasant poor by an example no less illustrious than considerate; and they prove almost the solitary intruders on her privacy as she enjoys the retirement of her country home. For their comfort and happiness the Queen and her lamented husband left no means untried: they erected for them model cottages, with every requisite accommodation, such as previously no labourer had known. The addenda to the cottage home, besides the garden, the woodhouse, and the pigsty, embraced a wider range than mere domestic conveniences, among which free medical attendance and the schoolroom are not the least to be appreciated. Next to the roads his Royal Highness thoroughly and deeply drained all the land, levelled the fields where practicable, abolished small inclosures, and planted quick, the result of which latter act of good husbandry shows itself in substantial and well-clipped hedges or fences about three feet six inches in height surrounding every field and abutting on every road, the effect of which in summer is picturesque and interesting. The lands being thus laid out, a four-course system of farming adopted, and natural and artificial manure applied with no sparing or parsimonious hand, the good consequences soon manifested themselves in rich and abundant crops. These preliminary remarks bring us to consider the value of the buildings which we have represented in our Engraving, on the right of which is Barton Manor House, the homestead of the farm, and in which resides the steward of the Royal owner of the estate. At the extreme left is a distant view of Osborne House; but approaching nearer to the foreground is a triple row of sheds and yards, the engine-house and chimney in the centre, with the foreman's house and bothy on the left. The upper range of buildings comprises cart stables, cart sheds, lodges, and granary. They are built of red brick with stone facings and gable ends; and all the back part, which is visible from the road, is of stone to correspond with Barton Manor House. In these sheds is kept every modern invention of farm machinery the practical purposes of which have been fully tested. The bodies of the carts are all fitted to one class and size of axletree, so that they can be removed at pleasure, and adapted to the special purpose for which they are designed. The Scotch waggons, which are used for harvest-carting, supersede the necessity of the ordinary waggon, and save a considerable outlay in the purchase, the latter being about £25 and the former not exceeding £4 10s. These waggons, removed from the axle, are packed away till again required, in a small compass, and resemble plates in a rack more than waggons in a shed. The stables are well ventilated and drained, the racks always kept clean, and water supplied in troughs for the horses *ad libitum*. In the next row of buildings is a large shed; and ranged on either side, with a tramway in the centre, are the cow stalls and bullock pits. A yard intervenes between this and the next range, in which is a pump for the liquid manure, so that the litter can never be so much saturated as to affect the health of the pigs or other animals which may occupy it. Beneath is a third range, forming the carpenter's shop on one side and large yard for the piggeries on the other, with the sheepyard and appropriate sheds beneath it. On the north-west boundary of the whole is the engine-house, with all its adjunct rooms of accommodation for the various purposes to which the engine is devoted, and which purposes are twelve in number—viz., thrashing and cleaning corn, cutting chaff for cattle and straw for litter, slicing turnips and mangold, crushing oilcake, splitting beans and peas, bruising oats, grinding tools, turning the sawmill, and pumping water for the fountains. For this latter object there is built a large filter, as seen in the pond, whence all the water is drawn to supply the fountains which play throughout each day when her Majesty resides at Osborne.

Foreign News.

AMERICA.

By the latest news from America we learn that Captain Wilks had made a report to the Secretary of the Navy respecting the Trent affair. In it he says that, before he determined to capture the Confederate Commissioners, he carefully examined all the authorities on international law to which he had access, and then came to the following conclusions:—"The Governments of Great Britain, France, and Spain having issued proclamations that the Confederate States were viewed, considered, and treated as belligerents, and knowing that the ports of Great Britain, France Spain, and Holland, in the West Indies, were open to their vessels, and that they were admitted to all the courtesies and protection vessels of the United States received, every aid and attention being given them, proved clearly that they had acted upon this view and decision, and brought them within the international law of search and under the responsibilities. I therefore felt no hesitation in boarding and searching all vessels of whatever nation I fell in with, and have done so. The question arose in my mind whether I had the right to capture the persons of these Commissioners—whether they were amenable to capture. There was no doubt I had the right to capture vessels with written despatches; they are expressly referred to in all authorities, subjecting the vessel to seizure and condemnation if the Captain of the vessel had knowledge of their being on board. But these gentlemen were not despatches in the literal sense, and did not seem to come under that designation, and nowhere could I find a case in point. That they were Commissioners I had ample proof from their own avowal, and bent on mischievous and traitorous errands against our country—to overthrow its institutions and enter into treaties and alliances with foreign States, expressly forbidden by the Constitution. They had been presented to the Captain-General of Cuba by her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, but the Captain-General told me he had not received them in that capacity, but as distinguished gentlemen and strangers. I then considered them as the embodiment of despatches; and as they had openly declared themselves as charged with all authority from the Confederate Government to form treaties and alliances tending to the establishment of their independence, I became satisfied that their mission was adverse and criminal to the Union, and it therefore became my duty to arrest their progress and capture them, if they had no passports or papers from the Federal Government, as provided for under the law of nations—viz., 'That foreign Ministers of a belligerent on board of neutral ships are required to possess papers from the other belligerent to permit them to pass free.'" He then continues:—"I determined to take possession of her, and, as I mentioned in my report, send her to Key West for adjudication, where I am well satisfied she would have been condemned for carrying these persons and for resisting to be searched; the cargo was also liable, as all the shippers were aware of the embarkation of these live despatches and their traitorous motives and actions to the Union of the United States. I forbore to seize her, however, in consequence of my being so reduced in officers and crew, and the derangement it would cause innocent persons, there being a large number of passengers who would have been put to great loss and inconvenience, as well as disappointment, from the interruption it would have caused them in not being able to join the steamer from St. Thomas for Europe." In conclusion, Captain Wilks repeats that he ordered the capture of the Confederate Commissioners on his own responsibility.

After the capture of the Confederate Commissioners on board the Trent, Captain Wilks's four prisoners addressed to him a memorandum setting forth the facts attending their arrest and their transfer to the San Jacinto. At the conclusion of their recital, which agrees substantially with the reports of the officers of the Trent, they request that if the memorandum be considered incorrect in any part the inaccuracies may be pointed out, and that Captain Wilks will transmit a copy of it to his Government along with his report of the transaction. Captain Wilks promises to transmit the paper as requested, but deems it his duty to say "the facts differ materially in respect to the time and circumstances." The correspondence closed with a "card of thanks" as follows:—"United States' steamer San Jacinto, Nov. 15, 1861.—Captain Wilks, commanding United States' steamer San Jacinto:—Sir,—Before leaving your ship we think it proper that we should state that since we have been on board of her we have uniformly been treated with great courtesy and attention.—Very respectfully yours,—John Slidell, J. M. Mason, J. E. M'Farland, Geo. Eustis."

The *New York World* gives the following synopsis of the Secretary of the Treasury's report:—"The report of the Secretary of the Treasury is a comprehensive and valuable document, conservative and cautious in the changes it recommends, and clear and positive in the enunciation of those sound principles of financial policy which framed the Sub-treasury Law and vetoed the United States' Bank. The Secretary states, as the principle for regulating the amount of revenue 'indispensable to a sound system of finance,' which 'reflection has only determined' in his mind as just and for the interests of the people, 'taxation to produce enough for ordinary expenditures, for prompt payment of the interest on the public debt existing and authorised, and a surplus fund sufficient to extinguish the principal within thirty years.' Mr. Chase rivets this clear exposition of the American national system of paying debts, as distinguished from that of European Governments, with the following emphatic sentence:—'The idea of perpetual debt is not of American nativity, and should not be naturalised.' The tariff is recommended to be advanced as follows:—Brown sugar, 2½c. per lb.; clayed sugar, 3c.; green tea, 20c; and coffee, 5c. No other changes are proposed. The direct tax on property is recommended to be 20,000,000 dols. from the loyal States; and, furthermore, 20,000,000 dols. by duties on stills and distilled liquors, on tobacco, on bank-notes, on carriages, on legacies, on paper evidences of debt and instruments for conveyance of property, and other like subjects of taxation; also 10,000,000 dols. from the income tax: making the total yearly product of direct taxation, other than customs, amount to 50,000,000 dols. per annum. The proceeds of customs duties are estimated at 32,198,662 dols., and from lands and miscellaneous sources 2,354,062 dols. The total from all other sources except direct taxation is estimated at 40,000,000 dols.; and from direct taxation, 50,000,000 dols.; making the yearly revenue 90,000,000 dollars. On this subject the Secretary gives the following interesting remarks and calculations:—'But if the sum is large, the means of the people are also large; and the object to be attained by a consecration of a portion of them to the public service is priceless. The real property of the loyal States is valued, in round numbers, at seven-and-a-half thousands of millions, the personal property at three-and-a-half thousands of million, and the annual surplus of earnings of the loyal people at no less than 300,000,000 dollars. Four mills on each dollar, or two-fifths of one per cent on the real and personal property of the loyal States, will produce 44,000,000 dollars; to which sum the proposed income-tax will probably add 10,000,000 dollars. The whole sum will be little more than one-sixth of the surplus earnings of the country.' If the war lasts until June 30, 1863, and these estimates prove correct, the national debt on that day will be 900,000,000 dollars.' Mr. Chase, in his remarks on bank circulation, gives an unqualified adherence to the principle of specie payments as indispensable to sound banking, and condemns the further use of United States' demand notes by Government. The plan which he recommends is prudent, safe for the public interests, and, under the judicious control of practical business men, may be made the instrument for a thorough regeneration of our banknote currency. The following are its suggestions:—'Its principal features are (1st), a circulation of notes bearing a common impression, and authenticated by a common authority; (2nd), the redemption of these notes by the associations and institutions to which they may be delivered for issue; and (3rd) the security of that redemption by the pledge of the United States' stocks, and an adequate provision of specie. In this plan the people, in their ordinary business, would find the advantages of uniformity in currency; of uniformity in security; of effectual safeguard, if effectual safeguard is possible, against depreciation; and of protection from losses in discounts and exchanges; while in the operations of the Government the people would find the further advantage of a large demand for Government securities, of increased facilities for obtaining the loans required by the war, and of some alleviation of the burdens on industry through a diminution of the rate of interest, or a participation in the profit of circulation, without risking the perils of a great money monopoly. A further and important advantage to the people may be reasonably expected in the increased security of the Union, springing from the common interest in its preservation, created by the distribution of its stocks to associations throughout the country, as the basis of their circulation.'"

President Lincoln's Cabinet have come to a decision respecting the slaves who take refuge in the lines of the "army of the Potomac." Hitherto they have been liable to seizure by the Washington police, on the ground that they had escaped from slavery; after the notice of Mr. Seward, however, the police themselves will be liable to military seizure if they attempt to capture the slaves who have thrown themselves on the protection of the military. Another notice of the Secretary of the Treasury is equally important. It directs that Southern products, such as cotton, rice, &c., which come into the possession of the Federal forces, shall be handed over to a Federal agent, who shall keep strict account of them; and it further appoints that "persons held to service," otherwise slaves, may be employed in this occupation, and they will receive for their work regular pay. Congress has also repealed a law which prevented coloured persons passing in and out of the city of Washington. Mr. Gurley had introduced a bill into the House of Representatives for the confiscation of rebel property and the liberation of the slaves. The bill also provides for the purchase of slaves owned by loyal masters and the removal of the enfranchised negroes to Florida. All these are significant indications of the form which public opinion is rapidly assuming, and of the determination of the Northern people to rid their country, once and for all, of the cursed institution which has been so fatal to its peace and prosperity.

Some correspondence with foreign Governments had been published, from which we learn that some months ago Earl Russell had officially avowed that there was a mutual understanding between England and France on American affairs; and we also learn that Mr. Seward, having ascertained on examining certain despatches that they took cognisance of both parties as belligerents, assuming thereby that the United States were not one Sovereign Power, would not allow the despatches to be communicated to the Federal Government. Mr. Seward says there is only one political

power here, the United States of America. He continues:—"There is, indeed, an armed sedition seeking to overthrow the Government, and the Government is employing military and naval forces to repress it. But these facts do not constitute a war presenting two belligerent Powers, and modifying the national character, rights, and responsibilities, or the characters, rights, and responsibilities of foreign nations. It is true that insurrection may ripen into revolution, and that revolution thus ripened may extinguish a previously-existing State, or divide it into one or more independent States, and that if such States continue their strife after such division then there exists a state of war affecting the characters, rights, and duties of all parties concerned. But this only happens when the revolution has run its successful course."

But the reasoning adopted by France and England is that certain facts give the insurgents the appearance of a Government de facto, and therefore they are to be regarded as belligerents in conformity with the laws of war. If this principle were allowed, argues Mr. Seward, it would still be important to inquire how many nations see the facts in this light? Thus far, there are only two. Are the judgments of these two to outweigh those of all other nations? Doubtless each nation may judge and act for itself, but it certainly cannot expect the United States to accept its decision upon a question vital to their national existence. Our sovereign rights do not at all depend upon the appearance they may assume in the eyes of foreign nations, and we shall defend them, and expect other nations to respect them, until, if ever, Providence permits them to be overthrown. Mr. Seward then goes over the diplomatic negotiations with France with regard to the declarations of the Congress of Paris, and shows that she claims nothing of us which we do not freely concede. And in declining to receive the communication referred to, we only refuse he the privilege of telling us we are at war, when we maintain that as to her we are at peace, and that she is neutral when we prefer to recognise her as a friend. After expressing the most amicable sentiments, Mr. Seward closes with the following passage:—

"The case, as it now stands, is the simple, ordinary one that has happened at all times and in all countries. A discontented domestic faction seeks foreign intervention to overthrow the Constitution and the liberties of its own country. Such intervention, if yielded, is ultimately disastrous to the cause it is designed to aid. Every uncorrupted nation in its deliberate moments prefers its own integrity, even with unbearable evils, to division through the power or influence of any foreign State. This is so in France. It is not less so in this country. Down deep in the heart of the American people—deeper than the love of trade or of freedom—deeper than the attachment to any local or sectional interest, or partisan pride, or individual ambition—deeper than any other sentiment—is that one out of which the Constitution of this Union arose—namely, American independence; independence of all foreign control, alliance, or influence. Next above it lies the conviction that neither peace, nor safety, nor public liberty, nor prosperity, nor greatness, nor empire, can be attained here with the sacrifice of the unity of the people of North America. Those who, in a frenzy of passion, are building their expectations on other principles do not know what they are doing. Whenever one part of this Union shall be found assuming bonds of dependence or of fraternity toward any foreign people, to the exclusion of the sympathies of their native land, then, even if not before, that spirit will be reawakened which brought the States of this Republic into existence, and which will preserve them united until the common destiny which opened to them shall be fully and completely realised."

The "army of the Potomac" is still motionless, and likely to remain so, till General M'Clellan perceives a certainty of success. This is, in fact, openly proclaimed. M'Clellan will give battle "when he is ready, and certain to win, and not before." It is said that all along the Southern coast there is "one sheet of flame and smoke," occasioned, no doubt, by the Southern planters burning their property rather than it should fall into the hands of the Federalists. This is a Northern account, and it shows the terrible determination of the Southerners. Northern Alabama will be made the dépôt for the cotton in future.

The other items of intelligence are few, but not unimportant. Congress has supported the action of President Lincoln in the suspension of the habeas corpus, and that body has also gone so far in the recognition of the belligerency of the South as to "pass a resolution inaugurating measures for the exchange of prisoners."

AUSTRIA.

The sad news of the decease of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort is thus recorded in the official *Vienna Gazette*:—"The startling message has produced a deep impression in this capital, but the excitement created by it in England is necessarily more immediate and painful in its character. It is well known that in all Great Britain, and more especially in London, the exemplary family life of the deceased was a pattern for the imitation of the people. The domestic happiness enjoyed by the Royal family, and the excellent education of the Royal children, were reflected in all the households of the capital, and thus a mutual loss befalls alike the Queen and her people. By his vivid sympathies with everything beautiful and good, and the dignity and tact with which he filled his position, the Prince won for himself the love and admiration of all classes. In all Great Britain there was hardly a philanthropic institution, a great industrial enterprise, or any artistic or scientific society, in whose labours he did not co-operate, or which he had not assisted with his active support. When death closed his eyes, it was not only his Royal relations and the large circle of his personal acquaintances, but England in general, who lost a man that ever worked for her welfare."

FRANCE.

An important despatch addressed by M. Thouvenel to the representative of France in Washington has been published, which we give on another page. The document bears date Dec. 3, and if dispatched at once from Paris, as it unquestionably must have been, ought to have reached Washington before the Federal Government had decided upon its reply to Lord Lyons.

The French Government, according to public rumour in Paris, is making naval preparations to protect its "interests" on the coast of America, in the event of a rupture between that country and Great Britain. The Port Admirals at Brest and Toulon have received orders to reinforce the squadrons on the Mexican coast and the north-western coast of America, and it is also reported that a "squadron of observation" will be sent to America, under the command of Vice-Admiral Penaud.

As an instance of the extreme friendliness of the English and French Governments, it is stated that the latter has supplied the former with 2000 pairs of snowboots. Of course an application was made for them, but the request was cheerfully complied with.

The very important discussion in the French Senate on the extension of the privileges of the Corps Legislatif was finished last Saturday by an almost unanimous vote in favour of the privileges of discussion. M. Fould spoke with considerable force in favour of the measure, and his financial reasoning was just an oratorical adaptation of his celebrated report. He argued that extraordinary credits were fallacious, and instanced the act of the British Government in sending away an army and a large navy without having recourse to Parliament. M. Fould thought that if the country had the "strength to respect the laws which they had made" all would be well, and the Senate apparently thought so too by adopting the proposition before it with one dissentient voice.

INDIA.

The melancholy tidings of the death of Viscountess Canning will be received here, as it has been throughout India, with the deepest sorrow. Her Ladyship had just returned to Calcutta from a tour in the up country when the symptoms of jungle fever presented themselves, which rapidly increased, and in a few days the malady ended fatally. The greatest sympathy has been shown for Lord Canning under this severe bereavement at the moment when he was laying down the high office which he has so successfully and brilliantly filled. Thus is the cypress ever intertwined with the bay. The remainder of the news is of a more cheering description. The whole peninsula was yielding a plentiful harvest, and the prospects of an abundant cotton crop were encouraging; the health of the country was generally good, though there were some indications of cholera in Bombay; and the estimates for 1861-2 show a surplus of a million and a half. The seat of government, it is stated, is to be removed from Calcutta to the hills—probably to Simla. This degradation of Calcutta to be the mere capital of Bengal is by no means favourably regarded by the inhabitants.

ITALY.

The Italian budget was provisionally approved of last Saturday by an immense majority. The deficit of 1862 was estimated by the Finance Minister at 159 millions of lire. It was in fact double that amount, but, by the alienation of Neapolitan and Sicilian bonds, and from the proceeds of the national loan of last year, the debt is reduced to the sum mentioned above. He proposes to raise the taxes by duties on salt, tobacco, railways, wine and other beverages, by a land tax, and a registration fee.

Signor Ratazzi, in deference to the appeal of the Italian Chamber, has consented to withdraw his resignation and to retain the post of President.

PRUSSIA.

In Berlin a funeral service was held on Monday for the late Prince Consort. The service took place in the chapel of the English Embassy, and was attended by the Royal family, the Minister of State, and the diplomatic body.

It is stated that the Prussian Parliament is to assemble on the 14th of January. The rumours of an approaching change in the Prussian Ministry have been denied.

Count Pourtales, the Prussian Minister to the Court of the Tuileries, is dead.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The Emperor of Russia officially announced to the Governor of Finland that he intends shortly to convoke the Diet of that province. The intelligence was received with the highest satisfaction, and the city of Helsingfors was illuminated on the occasion.

The official journal of Warsaw publishes the acceptance of the Marquis Wielopolski's resignation.

News from Thorn affords the information that affairs in Warsaw grow worse instead of better. Indeed, not in Warsaw only, but throughout Poland, the same Governmental severity is enforced, and arrests are made on a most extensive scale. Twelve beneficed priests, among other persons, have been sent to Siberia, a very sad instance of the violence of the Russian Government.

Monsignor Bialobrzeski, Administrator of the archbishopric of Warsaw, has been condemned to death. He refused to appeal for pardon, and said, "I have done nothing which should be punished with death."

SPAIN.

Most of the Madrid journals speak with regret of the lamentable death of the Prince Consort. The *Epoca*, after referring to the affliction of the Queen, says:—"The love of her family and religion are the sole consolations which remain to his affectionate spouse." In consequence of the death the French Ambassador had put off a ball which was to have been given on the evening of the 16th.

The Infanta Dona Francisca is ill, and in case she should not soon recover it is intended to send her to Alicant, or some other place of which the climate is mild.

SPAIN AND MEXICO.

It is asserted that a Spanish expedition, under the command of General Serrano, has disembarked at Vera Cruz, in order to protect the Spanish inhabitants, who had discovered the existence of a conspiracy against their lives.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS.—At the Southwark Police Court, on Monday, William Yates, a young fellow, described as a hawker, was charged with stealing two geese and two ducks, the property of Mr. Weare. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and Mr. Burcham sentenced him to three months' hard labour.

UNPRODUCTIVE LABOUR.—It is enough to make one despair of the progress of mankind to find that something like 4,000,000 of men are under arms. Here is a list:—Army of Austria, 738,344; Prussia, 719,002; Russia, 850,000; France, 626,000; Great Britain and India, 534,827; Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, and Italy, 303,497: total, 3,771,760. The cost of maintaining, clothing, and paying these men, at the low average of £40 per head, is £150,000,000 per annum. The labour of 3,771,760 ablebodied men cannot be calculated as producing less than £120,000,000 per annum, so that virtually, between the cost of their maintenance and what they ought to produce, were their labour utilised, there is a difference of something like £300,000,000 a year.—*Money Market Review.*

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

THE solemn ceremonial which turned all eyes to Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel on Monday was carried out strictly according to the programme which had previously been published. In all the forms that were observed, the funeral was, in as far as the funeral of so illustrious a personage as the late Prince Consort could be, a private one. There was no funeral car, no streets lined with troops, no heralds to proclaim in the highway the titles and qualities of the dead, no solemn salvos of artillery to give enhanced solemnity to the event. But, in as far as the feelings of the people were concerned, it was a public burial in the best sense of the word. The local public were all present, and sorrowfully participating in the ceremonial, whilst the whole public of the United Kingdom were present in spirit, more subdued and penetrated with their knowledge of the sad fact of the day than they could have been by the spectacle of the most imposing demonstrations of funereal splendour.

The guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards, of which his late Royal Highness was Colonel, mounted at the entrance to the State apartments shortly after eleven o'clock, and the carriages of which the funeral procession was to be formed were assembled close at hand. At ten minutes to twelve o'clock the minute guns commenced firing in the park, the coffin was brought out, and the procession formed according to the order of the printed programme. The procession then proceeded at a slow and solemn pace to St. George's Chapel, the only incident that had not been previously set down being that some wreaths of flowers were brought out of the State apartments and carried along with the procession, to be laid upon the coffin when it had been deposited in its final resting-place.

In the chapel itself the arrangements were precisely the same as at the funeral of the late Duchess of Kent. The centre of the nave was filled throughout its entire length by a raised platform covered with black cloth, along which the solemn procession was to come on its way to the choir. In the choir the floor was covered with black cloth, except a thin white line running along the centre, and terminated by an oblong space, also bounded with a white line which marked the aperture down which were so soon to descend the remains of the illustrious dead. There was something awfully suggestive in that ghastly white line running along the black flooring, and in that equally ghastly white parallelogram within whose dread inclose the dead Royalty of England sinks solemnly from mortal gaze. As we looked upon that white line we could not help recalling the period, so very recent, when the Prince Consort himself stood at its head as chief mourner at the funeral of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. It was but a few months since—and then his Royal Highness stood in the full bloom of his health and manhood, but looking with sad and serious earnestness down into the chasm. Who that was then present could have thought that the mourner was so soon to descend into the chasm himself, and to take his place beside the aged Princess over whose obsequies he was then presiding?

At ten minutes past twelve the funeral procession entered the nave. The platform along which the procession came was bounded on each side by a rail, beyond which were grouped, in deep mourning, the servants of the Royal household. By this time all the persons of

distinction who had received invitations had been conducted to their places in the chapel, including the whole of the Cabinet Ministers except Lord Palmerston, whose attendance was prevented by indisposition. The Queen's pages came first, and after them his late Royal Highness's yägers in their characteristic uniform. The grief of one of these poor fellows was one of the most touching episodes in the whole ceremonial. A great stalwart man, he sobbed as if his heart were breaking, and, when the solemn music of the choir burst forth, seemed to be wholly overcome by his emotion. As the procession advanced up the centre, the coffin of crimson velvet, covered with a magnificent pall, blazoned with the hatchments of the deceased, was brought in at a side door, and, having been carried down to the end, the bearers fell in at the place marked out in the programme. Close to it followed the illustrious chief mourners, on whom, of course, all the interest of the spectators was concentrated. First, all eyes were fixed on the Prince of Wales, the chief mourner, a youth just touching the verge of manhood, and thus suddenly called forth to fill the second most prominent position in the empire. His Royal Highness's deportment was perfectly calm and self-possessed, and, however deep might have been his inward emotion, no outer demonstration was allowed to interfere with the solemn propriety of the occasion. The young Prince Arthur, who walked by his Royal Highness's side, cried bitterly, and it is hardly necessary to add that the grief of one so young drew many a sympathetic tear from the spectators. The Prince of Prussia also exhibited considerable emotion, but no one seemed more deeply moved than the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the brother of the illustrious deceased. The Duc de Nemours, another of the chief mourners, appeared to be deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion. Neither the Duke of Cambridge nor the Prince of Leiningen was present; both being prevented by illness from attending.

The medical attendants were all in the procession, except Dr. Jenner, who is in attendance on her Majesty at Osborne; and it was noticed that Sir James Clark looked particularly depressed and careworn. As the coffin entered the chapel the choir sang the following simple German chorale which had been so great a

FUNERAL OF HIS LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT AT ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR, ON MONDAY.

favourite with his late Royal Highness, and which reached almost sublimity in its effect through the masterly singing of the principal tenor voice:—

I shall not in the grave remain,
Since Thou death's bonds hast sever'd;
But hope with Thee to rise again,
From fear of death deliver'd.
I'll come to Thee where'er Thou art,
Live with Thee, from Thee ne'er part;
Therefore to die is rapture.

And so to Jesus Christ I'll go,
My longing arm extending;
So fall asleep in slumber deep,
Slumber that knows no ending,
Till Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Open the gates of bliss—leads on
To heaven, to life eternal.

The service was read with much impressiveness by the Dean of Windsor, but the reverend gentleman's voice often faltered in the delivery of those passages which referred most directly to the deceased.

Previous to the lowering of the coffin into the vault there was one moment during which the interior of the chapel presented a most impressive and striking picture. The general tone was of the most sombre hue, the black floorcloth being scarcely relieved by the sable habiliments of the distinguished visitors who stood up in the stalls on each side. The Cabinet Ministers included Earl Russell, Lord Granville, Mr. Gladstone, the Duke of Newcastle, Sir C. Wood, Sir George Lewis, and Sir George Grey; and amongst the peers were the Earl of Carnarvon, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Exeter, and Lord Portman. At the upper end of the chapel stood the Dean and his assisting clergyman, and about the coffin stood the great officers of State and Garter King-at-Arms ready to throw the insignia of the order on the lid as it descended. A mellow light streamed down through the great stained-glass window, and threw out the crimson colour of the coffin and the bright uniform of the one military officer, General Seymour, who stood near the grave. When the hat and bâton of the Field Marshal and the crown of the Prince were placed upon the coffin the latter was slowly lowered; then the Garter King-at-Arms recited the titles and quality of the deceased, and, throwing the garter down upon the lid, the machinery was put in motion and the whole rapidly disappeared from view.

A few more words will complete our account of this sad and solemn ceremonial. When the coffin had descended and the aperture had closed over it, the chief mourner and the visitors left the chapel, the general company followed noiselessly by different doors and in a few moments the sole occupants of the Royal Chapel were the illustrious dead.

While the Royal family and other Royal personages were conducted out of the chapel, and the others composing the procession retired, "The Dead March" in "Saul" was played. A guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards was mounted during the ceremony at the entrance of St. George's Chapel. A troop of the Royal Horse Artillery was stationed in Windsor Park, and fired minute guns during the progress of the procession and the ceremony.

We give Engravings of the coffin, and a view of the choir of St. George's Chapel during the performance of the sacred ceremony.

At Windsor every shop was closed, and the entire population were arrayed in the vestments of mourning. The metropolis presented an equally sombre appearance; and from the provinces we learn that the people of England generally paid the same marks of respect and affection to the great and good Prince whose loss they so sincerely deplore.

There was a special service the same day at St. Paul's, at which about 3000 persons were present. Special services were also held in numerous churches and chapels in the metropolis and in the country.

Two Black Masks.

BY

BLANCHARD JERROLD.

CHAPTER XV.

Jules had promised to be dumb on the past, and to be gay, and light-hearted, and airy in the future. Time was to keep holiday with him. He was never more to be weary of the lagging hours. He was to sing as he shaved, and go gaily home as a skylark to nest. He had given his solemn word that the secret he and his brother held should be so locked and barred in his breast that even his brother should not have another peep at it. He was to nurse it; and though it gnawed his flesh and smote his heart by day and night he was to be a Spartan and smile while faint. Alas for poor Jules! He was not of Spartan stuff. Almost womanly in his nature, he had engaged in a venture that wanted the sternest material of which man was ever made.

He had a quiet place by Passy, where he spent his time of rest and quiet. It was a fantastic châlet, furnished with Parisian taste and luxury. He took his burgundy in Bohemia and his coffee in Sèvres. He could see his own wearied face in his polished floors. Eiderdown, satin-cased, lay light almost as air upon him on winter nights, yet kept him warm as a bird under the maternal wing. The choicest flowers from the Madeleine market greeted him when he rose to breakfast. Chevet could show nothing of which Jules had not tasted. His toilet apparatus had exhausted the art-resources of the Rue de la Paix. Many a student, passing homewards from St. Cloud, with his grisette carrying her trim basket upon his arm, had looked wistfully at his curtained windows, and wondered whether, after all Béranger's song-sermon, a man was as happy as the poet would have it: he was in a garret at twenty. It had been Jules's turn to look through his windows at this same student singing on his way to a Quartier Latin garret, and to ask himself whether all the frippery and finery were elements of happiness. Freedom from care, from the restraints of that section of the whole which calls itself society, freedom "wealthy with a crust," might outweigh the pleasurable pride of driving a perfect stanhope past a tumble-down cab in the streets. The blouses on fête days rollicked in the open air at the Barrières, nor seemed to sigh nor whine because society held up its gold eye-glass upon its Roman nose to observe how vulgar and noisy the people were. The students in their outrageous caps and hats did not appear to be conscious of the undoubted fact that the high faubourgs would not admit one of them to a salon.

On the evening of the day which was marked by the departure of Sebastien for Beauregard, Jules turned his back upon Paris, resolved to cheat the weary hours in his pretty retreat. The weary hours are not so easily cheated. Jules carried his house of sorrows smallwise. He walked home at a brisk pace. Exercise relieved him. He would have walked miles past his own gateway had not his gardener, who was by with some roots he was about to plant in the clean parterre, called to him to ask his opinion on the arrangement of the flowers. Jules stopped surlily.

"Does M. Jules approve my taste? I think the roses mix with charming effect," said brave Jean, while Jules was mechanically following the gardener. "The

TWO BLACK MASKS.—JULES TAKING HIS COFFEE AT HIS AUNT'S.

little geraniums make a splendid fire against the laurels."

Jules started, then turned his back upon his servant.

"Good!" Jean muttered, as he fell upon his knees to sort his darling roots, parting them tenderly, as though he were disposing laughing children for a game. "M. Jules has a bad digestion to-day. Well, we all have our shiny days and our cloudy days." With this consoling reflection Jean gently dibbled the bed before him.

Jules was met on his own doorstep by one of the gayest old ladies even Paris has ever held. Aunt Alix's words sparkled like fireflies. She was not far from sixty, according to her best friends, yet she tripped lightly about the room or garden and was ready for any amusement. The crush of a Sunday to see the great fountains of St. Cloud came easily to her. She stood, on a broiling July day, full three hours to see a review in the Champ de Mars. She was once rich. A rascally stockbroker ruined her. Her friends wept; she laughed and said she had relatives who could take care of her. The happiness of life did not depend upon eating black or white bread. It was likely that if she lived to the age of ninety she would

Die by a fall from a cherry-tree then.

Her gaiety, without eclipse, was meant for the volatile people among whom she was thrown. To them it was never wearisome. Her sharp features, covered with a brown skin and little flesh, were unremarked, for her eyes would never permit you to remark them. These eyes gave dimples of laughter to her thin cheeks, wreathed smiles upon her lips, and gave blood to all. It is possible she was sixty; but, without denying her age, she would never allow you to know it. Her memory was her only traitor—a traitor whom she defied. She wore her grey hair fluffed out in two cloudy masses against her face, and it had an indescribably light and cheerful appearance. With the gay ribbons she wore in her cap, her figure spare and still shapely, her rich lace and well-cut dress, her feet still coquettish in their peeping in and out, she defied Age, and would never make a truce with him while she could speak or walk. Nay, in a Bath chair she would have charmed and been the life and soul of her company. We have not such April-in-December ladies in this country of ours. Your laughing girl of eighteen marries. She may laugh still a year or two and be called a "giddy thing." It matters not whether there be harm or mere youth in the giddiness, it must not be. Mother-in-law frowns, matronly friends turn up their eyes, the mother of nine children wonders what has come to the married women nowadays. But Aunt Alix was under no restraint of this kind. Had she been the mother of a dozen children (all living) her world would still have been charmed with her sprightliness and have thought her a wonderful woman to boot.

Aunt Alix was charmed, enchanted, enraptured, to see her brave boy Jules. What! he had left the gaieties of Paris, had given up the Countess Circonflexe's ball, had forgotten his billiards, had deserted his brilliant club, to come and spend his evenings with an old woman who had nothing to give him but a welcome and some excellent soup! It was true that she expected a few few friends to pass the evening, but what would their society be after that to which he was accustomed? And there he was, looking as grave as an undertaker!

Jules replied to this volubility by kissing his aunt respectfully on both cheeks, and assuring her that it was not his fault, but his misfortune, that he was not able to spend six days out of the seven with her.

"Hypocrite!" cried Aunt Alix, gaily, slapping her nephew gently upon the back. "But now we have got you we will keep you. You shall laugh with us to-night. Wicked fellow! Every day I say to myself,

'Come, what will my Jules like for dinner?' I order things I detest myself, and you don't come. I walk to the Champs Elysée, in the hope of meeting you. But no Jules. And I return and take my soup peevishly, alone!"

"Peevishly!" said Jules, glad of an opportunity to stop this outburst of affection, "Nobody ever saw Aunt Alix peevish. I wish I had your spirits."

"I don't know what has come to the rising generation." Aunt Alix had burst forth again. "When I see young girls of sixteen in a drawing-room now I feel inclined to forget my grey hairs, call for my nurse, and have a turn with my hoop in the Tuileries Gardens."

"And I am ready for my crutches," Jules said, and he looked too serious to be met with a joke. Aunt Alix took him by the arm hereupon, and dragged him into the house.

"Talk to me of crutches, will you?" cried the vivacious old lady.

"The fact is, you and that odious Sebastien, whom I have not seen for months, are slaves to that wretched business of yours. If you had been content with a little less you had been happier than you will ever be. Look at poor, dear Baptiste! To be sure, he had money, and enough, with his wife; but while he lived he enjoyed himself. It was very sad in the end, very sad." Aunt Alix turned upon Jules, looking as serious as she could look under any circumstances. "Do you think, Jules, there was any malice in it? Do you think those brutal villagers fired the château?"

"You pass so rapidly from grave to gay, dear aunt, that you startle me." Jules looked startled.

"Dear creature! you were always so sensitive!" Aunt Alix pressed Jules's hand, and turned the conversation to the flowers in her pretty boudoir.

Jules was now delighted to remark on the freshness and fragrance of the flowers. Jean, who could see him from the garden, looked up and smiled, muttering to himself, "The indigestion has passed. Perhaps he will now condescend to admire my great fire of scarlet geraniums."

Jules ate a voracious dinner, to the light of Aunt Alix. She recommended everything, from the soup to the salad and gruyère. Rubbing her hands while Jules warmed with the burgundy he was drinking in unusual doses, the gay old soul said that if her nephew had lost his spirits he had not yet injured his appetite. She then laid down a law to the effect that there was not much the matter with man or woman who could eat well. "Heaven be praised!" she added, "I have always enjoyed a good appetite! Try those strawberries, Jules; they will cool you this hot weather. Madeleine, give M. Jules some ice, and tell Anastasie to make us some good coffee. You know M. Jules likes it good." Aunt Alix was beaming.

"A delicious cup of coffee, Madeleine," said Aunt Alix, when she sipped from her little Sèvres thimble; "tell Anastasie so for me." Then, turning to Jules, "My dear Jules, when you are pleased with people always tell them so at once; and when you are cross, wait till you are cool before you speak. An excellent plan, I assure you. It has saved me many an indigestion."

Jules blew his hot coffee gently, to cool it; and, having nothing to say, or being too lazy to say it, nodded, and sipped. Aunt Alix rose, opened a rosewood cigar-box, dipped her dainty fingers into it, and brought a cigar to her nephew, coquettishly, as though she had been married about ten days to him, and had never objected to smoke.

"There, now go into the garden and smoke that, while I make my little toilet, to receive our friends Be good, you wicked fellow, only this once, and don't smoke more than one. You shall have one with met and we'll chat after they have gone."

Jules was a child in the hands of Aunt Alix, as who would not have been? May every man be led by sunrays as bright!

Jean met M. Jules in the garden; and this time he was determined to have at least his "peppercorn of praise." He admired the roses, the carnations, the periwinkle and the heart's-ease. Jean turned once more to his famous bed of scarlet geraniums, the ruddy tom thumb's with which suburban London is enlivened.

"There!" cried Jean, "there, M. Jules, is a blaze of fire for you!"

"See if anybody is in the drawing-room," was M. Jules's only answer.

The man who has dined laughs at his portrait taken before dinner. When Jules had done justice to the epicurean taste of his sprightly aunt and housekeeper, he looked back upon that Jules who had walked like a maniac, fretful and gloomy, from Paris. The wine was dancing in his veins; his blood was warm. Our teeth are the spurs of our imagination. A man has eaten a good dinner, and he builds himself, as he dozes, spacious, solid castles—let the morrow bring the bailiff and the gaol-key if it will.

Aunt Alix had asked only a few of her intimate friends, because it would have been ill manners to have a reception during the severe affliction of the family. She thought a little game of cards with some dear friends who knew her well, and would not misinterpret her, could do no harm. An old Major and his wife, two maiden ladies who would have been gratified to see fifty again upon tiptoe, and an old exquisite, who was supposed not to be dead to the charms of Aunt Alix—here was the party. They all bowed formally, as though they were not in the habit of meeting four times a week. The Major's wife assured Aunt Alix that she was looking charming, and that her toilette was at once fresh and ravishing; to which Aunt replied that Madame was always so amiable. Jules chirped his compliments also, as he was bound to do; and the old ladies flirted their fans at him in the most wicked manner. There was much hypocrisy, even in this little circle; but the object was a pleasant evening—nothing more. If any guest had had the largest and most remarkable mote on record in his eye his neighbour at the card-table would not have seen it. We tell downright truths often with a worse motive than that which passed these amiable deceits round the board at Aunt Alix's little party.

"You have come among us again, then, M. Jules," said the old Major. "We were afraid Paris had swallowed you, as it does so many young and handsome fellows."

"I shall never forget, Major, the charming society my aunt has at Passy—let Paris have twenty times the attractions she has at present."

"Charmingly, said M. Jules," from one of the old maids, with her archest manner.

Condolences were offered to Jules and Aunt Alix on their recent bereavement. Aunt Alix put on a serious expression, said it was desolating for the family—that she had never received such a shock since her husband died—that those who had been taken from them were angels of goodness; and then, that it was fortunate the deceased had never known reverses like her's—for she was sure they had not the philosophy to bear such trials. This drew down a shower of compliments upon Aunt Alix. The old beau vowed that he had never ceased to admire her heroism; but, as for that, it was the talk of all Paris.

"Let us change the subject," Aunt Alix suggested, when had received to her heart's content of the sweetmeats.

"Your aunt is an adorable woman," the old Beau whispered to Jules.

"A most amiable and delightful woman," said Jules, just loud enough for the ear of Aunt Alix, who shook her head drolly, to exhibit the discontent she did not feel, and which Jules knew she did not feel.

Some tea, weaker than that we permit our children to drink, a few cakes and some kirchs, enlivened this evening of neighbourly intercourse. The Major was certain that the tea would keep him awake, and by the urgent entreaties of his spouse he was prevailed upon to add a liqueur to it as a corrective.

Jules had passed many evenings like this in his little châlet with his Aunt Alix, who kept house for him. She was an excellent housekeeper, with all her gaiety and love of pleasure. When she went to visit her neighbours she trotted thither under her little black satin hood (that once crumpled the splendid mountings of her caps), and relied upon the arm of a gallant old cavalier of the party to conduct her home. She had much missed Jules of late. He was often an absentee for a few consecutive nights; but he had now been absent for a fortnight. During the height of the Revolution the gallant old soul had marched to his offices—pushing her way through the soldiers—to beg him not to be carried away by the enthusiasm of the moment; and, if she could, to carry him back in triumph with her to his dear little châlet at Passy. She had waited four hours in the vain hours in the vain hope of seeing him. She had left and sent letters for him, and he had only written to assure her he was safe. But he had not been to see her. The reader may be assured that he got a good scolding when the guests were gone with whom we have just been in company. He was requested to account for every day of his absence.

"Now, I will have the whole truth," Aunt Alix said, roguishly; "and don't look so serious. I'm a woman of the world."

"I understand, Aunt Alix. You are wrong. I don't think I have spoken to a woman since I last saw you."

"What a bear!" cried Aunt Alix. "Are you going to become woman-hater, like the rest of the young men?"

"Am I going to be a woman?" from Jules.

"Rogue! I will not have any of your little pin's points of sarcasm here. Come, answer me."

"I have been, like everybody else, in a whirlwind. I don't know where I have not been."

"Except, my poor Jules, at Beauregard, where you and Sebastien might have been of some service."

"It's too late for regret. We can't see into the future. Why didn't Baptiste come to Paris?"

"Because, my dear Jules, he was as wise as I wished you to be. He would not speculate when he had enough."

"Enough, and not a franc to spare to help his brothers."

"Hush, Jules!" said Aunt Alix. "Hush! he is dead. I will not hear of his faults. He loved you, and would not help you in a course which he could not approve. Besides, most of his money belonged to his wife and children."

"Enough! enough! aunt." Jules threw down his cigar, and angrily wished Aunt Alix good night. She put her arms about him, and besought him not to be angry with her. But he broke away from her for the first time. She could not tell wherefore.

She would have been bewildered, indeed, had she seen him, when he had reached his room, take a deep draught of brandy before he threw himself upon his bed.

The next morning a letter was given to him before he rose. It was from Sebastien, who announced his return on the following day, and begged Jules to meet him at their offices immediately on his arrival.

RECRUITING for the Army is now going on in earnest, the average number for the last few days at the office at Westminster being from 25 to 30 per diem.

Recreations.

As the most rational of all the places of amusement the POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, at this Christmas season, deserves the earliest mention. For nearly a quarter of a century it has now been open for the instruction of the public. The Christmas-tree, the entertainments and lectures, so fairly inaugurated on Boxing Day, are on the most liberal scale. But besides all these, the Polytechnic this year sports a comic pantomime—not a new one certainly, but something better—the revival of Joey Grimaldi's "Harlequin and Mother Goose; or, the Golden Egg." Mr. Child has brought to bear on this attempt the whole of his phantasmagoria apparatus, and the entertainment includes optical illusions, dissolving views, and shadow effects. To all these strange appearances a chorus is wanted, and the want is well supplied by Mr. G. A. Cooper, who sings "Tippitywitchit" and "Hot Codlings" in admirable style. An infant vocalist, Master Sanders, sings also the song of "The Cabin Boy," which was originally sung when the pantomime was first produced, in 1806, more than half a century since, while as yet the Polytechnic was not. The present crisis of America, too, is also represented by a series of excellent photographs by Mr. England. Then we have a wonderful Russian cat, with modern magic, and the Garibaldi Bellringers; also, new dissolving views and lectures, embracing the subjects of "the first steps in science for young philosophers," our navies and dockyards, the Armstrong and Whitworth guns, and the experiments of Bunsen and Kirchoff in terrestrial chemistry. In these Mr. Pepper has outdone all his former doings.

Not less active are the other entertainers of the time, whose aim is principally, or exclusively, amusement. M. Blondin, for instance, resumed his performances at the CRYSTAL PALACE on Boxing Day; and in the afternoon an immense stage in the centre transept was opened, with scenic arrangements by Mr. Fenton, on which M. Blondin and his daughter Adele appeared in a pantomimic drama full of bustle. In the nave the largest Christmas-tree ever seen was exhibited.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathews had a morning performance on Thursday. Their "At Home" will take its place among the Christmas amusements. Mr. and Mrs. German Reed continue at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, with Mr. John Parry: and at the EGYPTIAN HALL M. Robin exhibits his Natural Magic. There are also some new exhibitors—Mr. Wilhelm Costello, at the POLYGRAPHIC HALL, in a new entertainment called "Our Budget of Eccentricities;" and the Female Christy Minstrels, twelve in number, in full Indian costume, at the ROYAL GALLERY OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS. Of the Music and Concert Halls we can say nothing—their name is legion, and their objects not to be spoken of with entire commendation. But, like the theatrical saloons, they include an element which will at length purify them, and fit them to become, ultimately, popular benefits.

Pantomime is decidedly in the ascendant this year, and is scarcely in any formidable shape antagonised by burlesque. The ADELPHI does without either, and puts to the attractions of "The Octoroon" and "The Colleen Bawn." This is a healthy sign; for hitherto the holiday class of performances has excluded fatally the progress of legitimate drama. When people were sure to come to the theatre, they were not permitted to witness any worthy effort; but its place was invariably usurped by various kinds of extravaganza, so that the public had no choice. The more serious pieces were reserved for nights when even the strongest attractions could not command full houses. Thus the higher dramatist was constantly precluded from the opportunity of effectually advancing his claims, and the popular mind deprived of that edification which high acting and high drama are so well calculated to impart. We welcome the change in this respect, and doubt not the example will in due course be followed.

A great amount of capital is annually expended on the pantomimes, and gives extensive employment to very many families. They furnish, too, a species of amusement which is to the liking of a large number. While, therefore, we raise objection to their maintaining a universal empire at any season, we are glad to acknowledge their right to a place in the festivities of the season. Mr. Morton's production at COVENT GARDEN has the advantage of Mr W. H. Payne, whose impersonation of Gulliver is, as might be expected, really great. The author opens his piece with the Temple of Pantomime in a state of decay—a condition which, in the person of its genius he regrets. But a last effort is made by summoning all concerned to Brobdignag, where Gulliver and his wife are observed approaching the coast, and on reaching the shore they admire the prodigious size of everything—oysters, cockles, and periwinkles. An enormous codfish pulls poor Mrs. Gulliver into the water. We cannot pursue the action of the pantomime, which is full of allusions to the stage peculiarities of the day. The scenery is beautiful, and the Court of Lilliput is enriched with stage-appointments. Nothing, in fact, is spared to make the pantomime effectual; and the transformation scene by Mr. W. Callcott is grand and elaborate. In the comic business, as it is called, Mr. Henry Payne has the part of Clown, Mr. Frederick Payne that of Harlequin, and Mr. Lauri that of Pantaloon. Miss Lauri is the Columbine.

Fortunately we have already given a sufficient account, in outline and title, of the other pantomimes, and have only a few particulars of detail to add. At DRURY LANE Mr. E. L. Blanchard has done justice to

his extraordinary talent, both in his mode of telling the nursery story and the witty couplets with which he has embellished the dialogue. Mr. Beverley's scenery is of itself enough to ensure the success of the piece; which has two Harlequins, Messrs. Cormack and St. Maine; two Clowns, Messrs. Huline and Forrest; two Columbines, the Misses Gunniss; and one Pantaloon, Mr. Tanner. But then there is Mr. Stilt, as a Dandy Lover, and a host of sprites beside. Mr. Buckstone has told the story of his pantomime in the prettiest manner possible, and has had it pictorially illustrated in answerable style. Mr. Frederick Fenton has invented some beautiful scenery. The comic business is much increased by a scene on the sands, invented by Mr. Nelson Lee. The pantomimists are, as usual, composed of the clever family of the Leclercqs.

Mr. Byron has resorted to allegory for supporting his Whittington argument at the PRINCESS', in which Miss Maria Harris supports the character of Dick, the fortunate hero. With these two crutches it limps on gallantly enough, till it reaches a decidedly splendid transformation scene. Whittington's Cat appears under favourable circumstances, being played by Master John Haslem, pupil of Gabriel Ravel. Mr. J. Lauri is the Harlequin, Mr. Hildyard the Clown, Mr. Paulo the Pantaloon, and Miss Adams the Columbine.

The ST. JAMES'S, the OLYMPIC, and the LYCEUM have produced burlesques, particulars of which require a fuller treatment than we have now space for. On these, and such other entertainments as merit especial record, we shall deliver our deliberate judgment in our next.

ARBITRATION: FOR AND AGAINST.—But the *Times* has other reasons besides the love of America for desiring war rather than arbitration. Not only is it our duty, for the sake of America herself, to visit her with suitable correction—which suitable correction is in the chivalrous form of kicking her when she is down—but the question of right is already decided. Arbitration is wholly inapplicable, for in this case there is nothing to arbitrate about. The English Crown lawyers have already decided the case, and America refuses to abide by their decision; what hope is there that she will abide by the decision of any other arbiter? Are there more impartial, more learned, more scrupulous lawyers in any country than in England? If not, what need is there that other lawyers should be called in? The matter is disposed of at once! It is really refreshing to stumble in these sophisticated days on a vein of such simple faith. The orthodox inquisitor who said—"It is lawful for me to persecute you because you are in the wrong, but it is unlawful for you to persecute me because I am in the right," seems to have revived after the slumber of ages. We have already determined ourselves to be in the right, and therefore it follows that our opponents must be in the wrong. We have settled that a certain portion of an estate is ours; what is the good of calling in judges and tribunals? Let us proceed to turn the other claimant off at once. What is the good of calling in the law to do it, and why tell us of the claims set up on the other side? Have we not determined that it is ours? How then can it be his? Or how can we honourably consent to go to law? Surely the law is not made for such cases as these. The law is only made for doubtful cases, and here we feel not the smallest doubt, therefore let us proceed independently of the law. Such appears to be the strain of reasoning adopted by the "leading journal." It may puzzle the simple-minded reader to follow the argument, and it may puzzle all to find out how, if arbitration is not suited to the present case, it is or ever can be suited to any case. "Oh, arbitration is suited to a doubtful case." Very well; a nation which has a doubtful case ought to submit the matter to arbitration. Then what ought a nation with a clear case to do? "Oh, it ought to go to war." According to this logic, the clearer the case of right, the more certain, therefore, the success of an appeal to arbitration, the more imperative the duty of avoiding arbitration and plunging into war! Truly this is diseased recklessness indeed. The stronger we are on any ground the more we are compelled to abandon it. The surer we are of obtaining our rights without war, the more urgent the necessity of going to war! But did it ever occur to the writer of these magnanimous views that it was just possible for one party to think itself in the right, and for the other party to think it in the wrong? Singular as it may seem, we have reason to believe that cases of such a nature have occasionally occurred. If we could imagine such an improbable event in the present case, does it not appear that the same rule as applies in disputed accounts and disputed questions of boundary between two individuals, each of whom believes himself in the right, might possibly be applicable here also? That rule is to go before an impartial judge and ask him to decide between them. Why should England and America decline to pursue the same method? And why should not England—the stronger, the happier, and, as it fancies, the wiser—be the first to propose so just and Christian a course?—*Leeds Mercury*.

A BANQUET OF A NOVEL CHARACTER has been held in Melbourne, Australia. The bill of fare comprised kangaroo, wallaby, wombat, bandicoot, opossum, and porcupine among the animals; black swan, wild turkey, pheasant, waterhens, and wattle-birds, among the fowl; and most of the fish of the Australian seas and fresh waters.

ON ST. THOMAS'S DAY WARDMOTES were held in the different wards of the City, pursuant to annual custom, to elect representatives to the Common Council for the ensuing year.

CURIOUS SORT OF MANUAL LABOUR.—The following incident marked the opening of the Assizes of the Seine, Paris. M. Dacosta, set down on the list of jurymen as "rentier," or a person living on his property, prayed to be excused serving, on the ground that he was leader of the claque (paid applauders) at the Ambigu Comique (a Paris theatre), and could not attend. The Advocate-General observed that the applicant was required only in the evening at the theatre, and could, therefore, serve perfectly well during the day. Dacosta very gravely replied that he had his repetitions in the day-time, in order to point out to his men at what parts of each piece they were to applaud, and that, therefore, he could not serve as a juryman. The Court, applying article 5 of the law of June 4, 1853, which dispenses all persons living by their manual labour from serving, acceded to the application.

NEW CHURCH ORDER OF DEACONNESSES.—An institution for deaconnesses for the diocese of London has been opened in Burton-crescent, on the model of the Protestant Deaconnesses' Institution at Kaiserwerth. It is intended that the sisters shall dress alike, economically, and unobtrusively. Their duties will be nursing the sick, educating the young, and visiting the poor, under the sanction of the respective incumbents in whose parishes they work. When complete the institution will consist of three orders:—1, Deaconesses residing under one roof, who shall devote themselves for a period not exceeding three years, but who may renew their dedication at the expiration of that period if they are so disposed; 2, Candidates who are probationary sisters, intending to become deaconesses if approved; 3, Assistants who, although residing at their own homes, still render the institution all the help in their power. It is intended that the sisters at present enrolled shall at once commence visiting in the necessitous districts north of the Euston-road, one of the worst portions of the parish of St. Pancras.

THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Times* has lately visited the scene of the eruption, and he now gives us a full and deeply-interesting account of the calamities caused by it. He says:—"Since I wrote last the action of Vesuvius has been gradually quieting down, but not so the alarm of the late inhabitants. On Tuesday there were several shocks of earthquake, which brought some crippled houses to the ground, and again, so recently as Wednesday, two other shocks were felt. Indeed, according to Palmieri, the conductor of the observatory on Vesuvius, the seismometer placed there has registered these movements from the beginning of the month. On Thursday I visited Torre del Greco again, to examine more in detail the injury which had been inflicted, and though on Monday there was more of a spectacle, and the effects were more striking from the fire and smoke and shower of dust, yet, as now the mountain was in comparative repose, the impression created by the sight of the desolation was even deeper. Torre del Greco had become what Pompeii was after the earthquake; two and twenty thousand persons had been driven from their dwellings in a night, while all the signs of recent life and of hurried escape met one at every glance. The train stopped on the Naples side of the city, 'for,' said the inspector, 'there are several clefts in the road, and the vibration of the carriages might bring down more houses.' So, dismounting, we walked along the rail, through the Strada Marina, every house in which had fissures from top to bottom, and before ascending went down to the sea, which at a few feet from the beach was boiling furiously. Fortunately, I was accompanied by the Rector of the city, who pointed out in detail what was most remarkable. 'The sea has retired,' he said, 'full twenty palms, and we consider this as a bad symptom, and an indication of yet greater disasters. These huge rocks were covered on Sunday last, and now they are exposed, and are cleft to the bottom, as if by some mighty mechanical power.' They are all composed of hard dintlike lava, which flowed down in 1794, overwhelming the father of the present city. Through the subterranean openings which had been made by the earthquake the water from the mountain was pouring into the sea, and, though the temperature was not much increased, it had an acid flavour. Close by we went into a ruined house, to examine a well which had been cleft by the earthquake, and through which the springs were pouring down with much violence, as the ear, not the eye, told us. Torre del Greco is terraced on the incline of the mountain, and you enter one parallel street from another by a series of steps. Other streets run at right angles to these and lead from the sea up to the higher parts of Vesuvius. Let us ascend the Strada Ripa, which had a large fissure throughout, and, turning off to the left, pass down the Strada Fontana. It is so called from the fountain which is there, and which has now risen several feet. At one extremity of it the water was in a state of boiling agitation, not, I think, from the effect of heat so much as from the springs which had been opened beneath. I tasted this water, which was perfectly flavourless, like boiled water, but there was nothing more decided in its character. Every house in this street was in a ruined state; workmen were knocking holes in the façades at the top of some of them, in which to place the ends of poles that were to be their props; others had fallen a mass of débris, and several were cut down so finely that sections of them remained, exhibiting the interior. Thus I saw tottering on the extremity a bed, neatly folded down, and which had evidently not been slept in; the chairs were ranged round the side of the room that had been saved, and a gridiron, tomatoes, and kitchen utensils of all kinds, hung against the walls of this, the section of the second floor of the ruined building. What an escape for the inhabitants! I retrace my steps and again ascend, and, mounting a range of steps, enter on another terrace called the Strada Santa Croce. All the houses here presented a similar appearance. We walked in the middle of the street, for who could tell but that one of the cripples might fall upon us? Right and left were cross streets in the same condition, and in them several houses had fallen a mass of rubbish. I stopped before one large house in particular, the shell of which was remaining intact, while the interior had fallen in, and the masonwork projected through the open door. Just outside the street had been thrown up by the volcanic action and a crater was formed ten palms in diameter. I stood on the edge and looked down, and saw that the geological formation was all of lava, the old lava of 1794, split asunder by a mysterious and irresistible power, and that the actual city was built on the city of the dead. Nine times has Torre del Greco been destroyed, and yet, with a persistence which appears like folly, the inhabitants have returned, and rebuilt, and suffered, and have been swallowed up. We call it folly, but it shows a strength in human affections stronger than death. 'We come back here,' said the Rector, 'for we were born here, have lived here, and all our associations are with this neighbourhood.' Further on up this street—a bed of lava, for so it is—we come in front of the Church of Santa Croce. It is a spruce new building, as white as plaster can make it, and was erected when its predecessor was destroyed by the eruption at the end of the last century; by its side stands the Campanile, a much more ancient building, dwarfed of its original proportions, for two floors remain buried beneath the old lava, and now only two remain—another proof of human hardihood or of human affection. The same impressive scenes were visible in all directions, right and left, or mounting upwards; all was débris, or falling into ruins. I met a heavy cart coming down the great central street laden with furniture, and picking its way, as it were, to avoid the fissure which rent the street from top to bottom; some men were occupied in putting poles against the houses, and others in sweeping off the accumulated ashes from the balconies or the roofs, and we stood a chance of being smothered beneath the shower which fell fast and thick around it. There is an incident which I have not marked. The town was full of people. They had fled in their fright, leaving everything behind them except a mattress or so, and now that the showers have ceased many have returned, not to remain, but to carry carry off everything which belonged to them. 'The town will be abandoned,' said the Rector, 'for there is an impression that the danger has not yet passed; that if there are more upheavings it will fall in; or that the houses, fissured and weakened, may come down.' Every one who could, therefore, was taking away his goods, gently and carefully, lest the dwellings might come down. Some would not venture in, and their property was left; but every open space was full of household goods, and you may judge what a scene it was when many thousands were flitting. Some were wrangling about their bargains with *facchini* and cartmen. Others were bringing out their goods and packing them in waggons, or taking them down to the boats which were in waiting at the shore. I saw priests and laymen sitting as guards over their furniture piled up in the streets, and waiting until they could get the means of transport. 'I sent off all my friends the first night,' said my courteous friend, 'and last night I slept at sea on board one of our boats, for my apprehensions were great.' Little rough engravings of the Madonna stuck on the fronts of the houses marked the sense of danger in which the people had lived, and the ruins around showed the impotency of the source from whom they sought protection. Yet they indicated that deep religious spirit which danger ever calls forth, and which under every form is to be respected. Let us leave the town, which is surrounded by smiling vineyards, and traverse the old road, which shortly conducts us to the old bed of lava. Tumbling and stumbling over this, we arrive at the origin of the disaster, which lies at the foot of the cone, on the top of which is situated the grand crater. There are four large mouths in a line with one another, while right and left were a number of smaller ones. One or two opened not far from me while I stood there, and the smoke which issued from many points and the extreme heat beneath our feet told us that it was just possible we might ourselves be sent into the air. Across the mighty bed, perhaps here the third of a mile in breadth, a hot, quivering atmosphere showed that it would be dangerous to cross it; the heat would be too great, or the crust, here and there more fragile, might break and let us into the liquid lava below. I cannot speak as a chemist; but the colours of the formations on the sides of the many craters were splendid, and men were already plying their trade of collecting and selling specimens. Above this remarkable scene towered the feudal lord of the district, by whose will these tributaries below did their work of devastation. If he speaks they are silent, and when he reposes his too ready agents begin to act without moderation or compassion. We returned by the same road as that by which we ascended, and observed that the old bed of lava had been riven by the earthquake; and you must remember how this lava is formed beneath the scoriæ which cover the surface. It is as hard as flint, and it must have been a mighty agency which could split it thus in two. A quarter of an hour's walk brings us by a circuitous road to the extreme end of the new lava which flowed out on Sunday

ROYAL ENGRAVED PLATE.—ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS SEEN FROM RESINA.—PLATE I.

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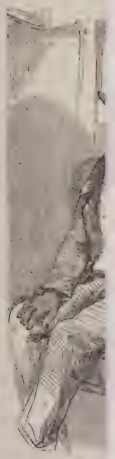

EJECTION OF

CHRISTMAS IN THE OLDEN TIMES.—DANCING THE SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY.

evening; and, though I have been accustomed for many years to watch such scenes, I was astonished at the extent of land which it had covered in so short a time. There is a house here which has been submerged beneath the liquid fire; and, mounting on the roof, which is broken into large slabs, I looked across the blackened field. It must here be two-thirds of a mile in width, and fully 25 or 28 palms high. Had it not been arrested by the action of the upper mouth it must shortly have swept away the entire city, for it had arrived within a quarter of an hour's walk of it, and the descent to the sea is very rapid. So have Portici, Resina, and Somma, and other towns within my recollection, been saved—an accidental elevation here and there has diverted the course of the stream, or some caprice of the mountain has stayed its progress and saved the population. While the earthquakes have destroyed the city, the lava has destroyed the country on the confines. Large and fertile vineyards, where vines of a magnificent quality were grown, are now beneath the lava. Not far from the house on which I stood is another large building, up one side of which the lava has crept and worked in at the windows, while in another direction, and in the middle of the bed, are trees yet retaining their verdure, though roots and trunks are far below the surface—a fact as curious as it is inexplicable. Close by them, too, are trees which have fallen carbonised on the lava. In Naples the large barracks called the Granile, on the road to Portici, have been opened for the reception of the poor fugitives, while many of the richer classes have taken lodgings in the city."

SKETCHES IN AMERICA.

ALTHOUGH the Northern States have begun at last to stir themselves on the subject of slavery, and though the general feeling towards the negroes seems to be sensibly improving, scenes still occur from time to time, such as that shown in our Engraving, which tell us how deep is the evil of slavery, since it will live in the shape of social prescription when it can no longer assert its right over the actual dark-coloured flesh and blood.

We give a Sketch of poor "Uncle Tom," as our Artist saw him turned out of the passengers' car at Philadelphia by the conductor for ensconcing himself and his little bundle of homely chattels in a seat reserved for his superiors. "The conductor rudely beckoned him out, we recollect, and ordered him to the front car with as little ceremony (and, indeed, with no complimentary remonstrance) as if he had been one of the dogs who are penned together in one of our own railways. The utterly helpless look of submission of the poor fellow was as touching as the distressed look of the Quaker lady who sat near hugging her infant. Quakers have resolved never to hold slaves of their own; yet at their own doors they are compelled to witness daily such proofs of unhallowed serfdom."

Our other Sketch affords a glimpse of the "'Change" at New York (see Engraving), such as we may fancy it when England's message arrived, and business of all kinds began to be suspended, and the merchant-crowd to listen heedlessly to the clamour of the auctioneer, who still would be wide awake to his own business and interests.

EJECTION OF A NEGRO FROM A RAILWAY CAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

MERCHANTS ON 'CHANGE, NEW YORK.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE OUTRAGE ON THE TRENT.

M. Thouvenel, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, has addressed the following highly important despatch to the representative of France at Washington:—

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE FRENCH MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.

Paris, Dec. 3, 1861.

Monsieur,—The arrest of MM. Mason and Slidell on board the English packet Trent by an American cruiser has produced in France, if not the same emotion in England, at least great astonishment and an extreme sensation.

Public opinion at once inquired, with anxiety for the consequences, whether such an act could possibly be legitimate, and there cannot be the slightest doubt of the general impression. The act seems to the public so entirely at variance with the ordinary rules of international law that it throws the responsibility exclusively upon the commander of the San Jacinto.

We cannot know yet whether this supposition is well founded, and the Emperor's Government has therefore felt called upon to consider the question raised by the capture of the two passengers on board the Trent. The desire to contribute to prevent a conflict, which is perhaps imminent, between two Powers towards whom it is animated by equally friendly sentiments, and the duty of maintaining—with a view to put the rights of its own flag beyond the danger of attack—certain principles essential to the security of neutrals, have, after mature reflection, convinced the French Government that it cannot remain completely silent under existing circumstances.

If, to our great regret, the Washington Cabinet should be disposed to approve the conduct of the commander of the San Jacinto, they must consider MM. Slidell and Mason either as enemies or as rebels. In either case there would be an extremely regretable forgetfulness of principle, on which we have always found the United States agreed with us.

On what ground, in the first supposed case, can the American cruiser have arrested MM. Mason and Slidell? The United States have admitted, with us, in treaties concluded between the two countries, that the freedom of the flag extends to persons found on board, even though they be enemies, except in the case of military men actually in the service of the enemy. MM. Mason and Slidell were, therefore, by virtue of this principle, which we have never found any difficulty in getting inserted in our treaties of friendship and commerce, perfectly free under the neutral flag of England.

It will not, doubtless, be pretended that they could be considered as contraband of war. What constitutes contraband of war is not, it is true, precisely settled; the limits are not absolutely the same for all Powers; but, as far as regards persons, the stipulations found in treaties relative to military persons clearly define the character of the individuals who alone are liable to be captured by belligerents.

Now, it cannot be necessary to demonstrate that MM. Mason and Slidell can in no way be assimilated to persons in this category. There would, therefore, remain no ground to explain their capture but the pretext that they were bearers of official despatches from the enemy. But this is the place to call to mind a circumstance which overrides the whole case, and shows the conduct of the American cruiser to have been unjustifiable.

The Trent was not bound to a point belonging to either of the belligerents. It was carrying its cargo and passengers to a neutral country; and, moreover, it was at a neutral port that it had taken them up. If it were admissible that, under such circumstances, the neutral flag did not completely cover the persons and goods transported under it, the immunity of that flag would be a vain word; the commerce and navigation of third Powers would be liable to suffer at any moment for their innocent, or even indirect relations with either of the belligerents. The latter would not only have a right to require from the neutral the most complete impartiality, and to interdict him from being mixed up in any way with acts of hostility, but they would inflict restrictions upon the liberty of commerce and navigation which modern international law refuses to acknowledge as legitimate. There would be a return, in a word, to those vexatious practices against which, in former times, no Power protested more energetically than the United States.

If the Washington Cabinet should regard the two persons arrested as rebels, whom it has always a right to seize, the question, though shifting its ground, could not be more resolved in a sense favourable to the commander of the San Jacinto. In such a case there would be a contempt of the principle in virtue of which a ship is held to be a portion of the territory whose flag it bears, and there would be a violation of the immunity which forbids a foreign Sovereign to exercise jurisdiction on that territory. It cannot doubtless be necessary to call to mind the energy with which the United States has, on every occasion, defended this immunity and the right of asylum which is a consequence of it.

Without wishing to enter upon a more thorough discussion of the question raised by the capture of MM. Mason and Slidell, I have said enough, I think, to show that the Cabinet of Washington cannot, without infringing those principles which all neutral Powers are alike interested in maintaining, nor without putting itself in contradiction with its own conduct up to the present time, give its approbation of the conduct of the San Jacinto. In this state of things the Cabinet of Washington cannot, in our opinion, hesitate as to the course to be taken.

Lord Lyons is already charged to present the demand for satisfaction which the English Cabinet is under the necessity of making, and which consists in the immediate release of the persons taken from the Trent, and explanations which shall relieve the act of the Captain of the San Jacinto of its offensive character to the British flag. The Federal Government would be inspired by a just and elevated sentiment in yielding to these demands. It is impossible to conceive any object or any interest that it could have to run the risk of provoking a rupture with Great Britain by assuming a different attitude.

For ourselves, who would see in such a rupture a complication in every way deplorable of the difficulties with which the Cabinet of Washington has already to struggle, and a proceeding calculated to occasion serious uneasiness to all the Powers not parties to the present conflict, we think we are giving a testimony of loyal friendship to the Cabinet of Washington in not concealing from it our opinion.

I request you, Sir, to take the first opportunity of speaking frankly with Mr. Seward, and, if he should desire it, to leave him a copy of this despatch. Receive, &c., THOUVENEL.

THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL REPORT AS TO IRON SHIPS OF WAR.

A BOARD appointed by the Navy Department to examine into the question of iron-plated frigates had sent in their report, from which the following is an extract:—

"Opinions differ among naval and scientific men as to the policy of adopting the iron armature for ships of war. For coast and harbour defence they are undoubtedly formidable adjuncts to fortifications on land. As cruising-vessels, however, we are sceptical as to their advantages and ultimate adoption. But, while other nations are endeavouring to perfect them, we must not remain idle. The enormous load of iron as so much additional weight to the vessel, the great breadth of beam necessary to give her stability, the short supply of coal she will be able to stow in bunkers, the greater power required to propel her, and the largely-increased cost of construction, are objections to this class of vessels as cruisers which, we believe, it is difficult successfully to overcome. For river and harbour service we consider iron-clad vessels of light draught or floating batteries thus shielded as very important, and we feel at this moment the necessity of them on some of our rivers and inlets to enforce obedience to the laws. We, however, do not hesitate to express the opinion, notwithstanding all we have heard or seen written on the subject, that no ship or floating-battery, however heavily she may be plated, can cope successfully with a properly-constructed fortification of masonry. The one is fixed and immovable, and, though constructed of a material which may be shattered by shot, can be covered, if need be, by the same or much heavier armour than a floating vessel can bear, while the other is subject to disturbances by winds and waves and the powerful effects of tides and currents. Armoured ships or batteries may be employed advantageously to pass fortifications on land for ulterior objects of attack, to run a blockade, or to reduce temporary batteries on the shores of rivers, and the approaches to our harbours. From what we know of the comparative advantages and disadvantages of ships constructed of wood over those of iron, we are clearly of opinion that no iron-clad vessel of equal displacement can be made to obtain the same speed as one not thus incumbered, because her form would be better adapted to speed. Her form and dimensions, the unyielding nature of the shield, detract materially in a heavy sea from the life, buoyancy, and spring which a ship built of wood possesses. Wooden ships may be said to be but coffins for their crews when brought in conflict with iron-clad vessels; but the speed of the former, we take for granted, being greater than that of the latter, they can readily choose their position and keep out of harm's way entirely. Recent improvements in the form and preparation of projectiles and their increased capacity for destruction have elicited a large amount of ingenuity and skill to devise means for resisting them in the construction of ships of war. As yet we know of nothing superior to the large and heavy spherical shot in its destructive effects on vessels, whether plated or not. Rifled guns have greater range, but the conical shot does not produce the crushing effect of spherical shot. It is assumed that 4½-in. plates are the heaviest armour a seagoing vessel can safely carry. These plates should be of tough iron, and rolled in large, long pieces. This thickness of armour, it is believed, will resist all projectiles now in general use at a distance of 500 yards, especially if the ship's sides are angular. Plates hammered in large masses are less fibrous and tough than when rolled. The question whether wooden backing or any elastic substance behind the iron plating will tend to relieve at all the frame of the ships from the crushing effect of a heavy projectile is not yet decided. Major Barnard says, 'To put an elastic material behind the iron is to ensure its destruction.' With all deference to such creditable authority, we may suggest that it is possible a backing of some elastic substance—soft wood, perhaps, is the best—might relieve the frame of the ship somewhat from the terrible shock of a heavy projectile, though the plate should not be fractured. With respect to a comparison between ships of iron and those of wood without plating, high authorities in England differ as to which is the best. The tops of ships built of iron, we are told, wear out three bottoms, while the bottoms of those built of wood will outwear three tops. In deciding upon the relative merits of iron and wooden framed vessels, for each of which we have offers, the board is of opinion that it would be well to try a specimen of each, as both have distinguished advocates. One strong objection to iron vessels, which, so far as we know, has not yet been overcome, is the oxydation or rust in salt water, and their liability of becoming foul under water by the attachment of seagrass and animalcules to their bottoms. The best preventive we know of is a coating of pure zinc paint, which so long as it lasts is believed to be an antidote to this cause of evil. After these brief remarks on the subject generally, we proceed to notice the plans and offers referred to us for the construction of plated vessels and floating batteries. It has been suggested that the most ready mode of obtaining an iron-clad ship of war would be to contract with responsible parties in England for its complete construction, and we are assured that parties there are ready to engage in such an enterprise on terms more reasonable, perhaps, than such vessels could be built on in this country, having much greater experience and facilities than we possess. Indeed, we are informed that there are no mills and machinery in this country capable of rolling iron 4½in. thick, though plates might be hammered to that thickness in many of our workshops. As before observed, rolled iron is considered much the best, and the difficulty of rolling it increases rapidly with the increase of thickness. It has, however, occured to us that a difficulty might arise with the British Government in case we should undertake to construct ships of war in that country, which might complicate their delivery, and moreover we are of opinion that every people or nation who can maintain a navy should be capable of constructing it themselves. Our immediate demands seem to require first, so far as practicable, vessels invulnerable to shot, of light draught of water, to penetrate our shoal harbours, rivers, and bayous; we therefore favour the construction of this class of vessels before going into a more perfect system of large iron-clad seagoing vessels of war. We are here met with the difficulty of incumbering small vessels with armour, which, from their size, they are unable to bear. We, nevertheless, recommend that contracts be made with responsible parties for the construction of one or more iron clad vessels or batteries, of as light a draught of water as practicable, consistent with their weight of armour. Meanwhile, availing ourselves of the experience thus obtained, and the improvements which we believe are yet to be made by other naval Powers in building iron-clad ships, we would advise the construction in our dockyards of one or more of those vessels upon a large and more perfect scale, when Congress shall see fit to authorise it. The amount now appropriated is not sufficient to build both classes of vessels to any great extent."

THE VOLUNTEERS.—The death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort has had the effect of paralysing the movements of the volunteer regiments throughout the metropolis during the whole of last week, and previous orders of marching out with bands, &c., have been entirely suspended. The West Middlesex were to have had their second annual distribution of prizes and soirée at University College on Monday week; the prizes were to have been distributed by Colonel M'Murdo, and great disappointment resulted, as we understand something like 2000 invitations had been issued for the entertainment. The 30th Middlesex (Paddington) were to have had their annual distribution at Westbourne Hall, and their regimental dinner at St. James's Hall on Friday week, but those gatherings have now also been postponed till after Christmas. Indeed, in every corps there has been a suspension of band-playing, and all display has been suspended. The commanding officers of most, if not all, the metropolitan regiments have issued orders that every officer, non-commissioned officer, and private should wear a band of crape on the left arm, three inches in width, to be continued till further orders.

A CORSICAN RUFFIAN.—At the Court of Assizes of Corsica a young man eighteen years of age, named Renucci, of a respectable family of Ajaccio, has been tried for murdering his aunt through jealousy. The prisoner, it appeared, was some time ago abandoned by his parents for gross misconduct, and would have been reduced to great distress if his aunt, Mdme. Ciampi by name, had not procured him admission into the ecclesiastical college. He, however, misbehaved himself there, and was expelled. He shortly after fell ill, but all that his parents would do for him was to let him occupy a garret in their house. His aunt, however, provided for his wants, procured him medical assistance, and frequently paid him a visit. As she was only eight years his senior, and well-looking, he conceived a violent passion for her. When he recovered he declared his passion and implored her to fly from her husband with him, but she indignantly refused. He continued to persecute her with his solicitations, but she persisted in her refusal. On the 19th of September last, without any provocation, he applied to her insulting language, and she, in order to avoid him, went to his mother's apartment He followed, and, suddenly rushing on her, stabbed her several times with a poniard-knife. The cries of the poor woman attracted some persons to the spot, and the man was secured. Medical assistance was procured for Mdme. Ciampi, but in spite of all that could be done she died in a few hours. The defence presented for the prisoner was that he was affected in his mind, but the alleged insanity could not be proved. He was condemned to twenty years' hard labour.

Accidents, Inquests, Etc.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN VICTORIA-STREET.—On Wednesday week information was received by Mr. Bedford, the Westminster Coroner, of the death of a Mr. Robert Hope. It appeared that the deceased was leaning against the closed gate of an area in Victoria-street when the fastening suddenly gave way, and, the gate flying open, he was precipitated into the area, which was of considerable depth. Death was apparently instantaneous, there being very extensive injuries to the head; but it was some time before the body was found, as no one had seen the actual fall.

FIVE MEN DROWNED AT BURNMOUTH.—A melancholy accident occurred on Wednesday week to a fishing-boat off Burnmouth, near Berwick, by which five men lost their lives. It appears that the sea was exceedingly rough, and that between one and two o'clock in the afternoon the boat, which had seven men on board, filled with water and sank. Two young men were saved, but five of the crew, all of whom were married men, were drowned.

HIGHWAY MURDER AND ROBBERY IN FRANCE.—The mail-cart which runs between Saint-Germer and Beauvais was attacked on the 17th by one or more highwaymen, who ransacked the letter-bags and murdered the driver. The horse came through the streets of Beauvais with a loose rein, and stopped of himself at the door of the post-office. A porter, supposing the driver to be asleep, got into the cart, and found him lying dead in a pool of blood. His brains were blown out by a charge of shot, which must have been fired close to him, as it made a round hole in the skull like one from a bullet, and he had another wound in the back. The letters found in the bags had been cut open, and no doubt, whatever money they contained was stolen. A man named Dupille was arrested by the gendarmerie on Friday week on suspicion of being the murderer. They handcuffed him, with the intention of taking him to Beauvais; but just after night set in, as they were passing through a wood, he escaped from them by a sudden bound, rushed into a thicket, and disappeared. More than 500 persons were next day engaged in searching the wood, but the man has not yet been found.

PARRICIDE AT BIRMINGHAM. — A most tragical incident happened at Birmingham on Wednesday week. A lad about seventeen years of age, named Millard, bought and loaded a pistol. When he was playing with it his father came into the house intoxicated, and asked his son to shoot him. Whether in joke or not is not known, but the boy did fire, and shot his father in the head. The wounded man was removed to the hospital, where he died yesterday week. At the inquest held on the body last Saturday the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the son.

A ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE.—Two British subjects resident at Rome, a Mr. Kenrick and a Miss Gray, committed suicide at Naples lately under peculiarly romantic and distressing circumstances. Mr. Kenrick, who was sixty-two years of age, while the lady was but twenty-eight, had from a very rich man become a very poor one. Mr. Kenrick, becoming bankrupt, left England and went to Lyons, where he speculated in silk, and became partner in a manufactory, but with no success, as after six years' residence in that city the firm was declared insolvent; and he, disgusted apparently with commercial undertakings, left France to join Garibaldi's legion, which was then besieging Capua. It appears that Mr. Kenrick on this occasion fell in with Miss Gray, a misguided young lady, although belonging to a respectable family, with whom he had previously been intimate in England. How or why she was at Naples is not clearly specified, but she immediately joined Mr. Kenrick there, and came on with him to Rome, as already stated; but on account of this liaison Mr. Kenrick's usual remittances from his wife's relations were suspended. Their circumstances, therefore, became more and more embarrassed, until they resorted to the last desperate expedient of suicide. They must have gone to the public garden of the Villa Reale at Naples. There, the café being still open, they took a glass of rum, or rosolio. They then climbed over the low wall of the villa, where a semicircular space overlooking the sea is furnished with stone seats, and descended on the beach, where Miss Gray tied her dress round her ankles, and filled it from the waist with sand, Mr. Kenrick effecting the same purpose by filling the bosom of his shirt, his waistcoat, and coat-sleeves with sand and stones, Miss Gray supplying the necessary strings and tapes from her own dress. They then tied themselves together round the waist with their pocket-handkerchiefs and deliberately lay down to die in the sea, which at that point is not more than two or three feet deep. They had the resolution to endure suffocation, and their corpses were seen in the transparent water next morning at daybreak by a fisherman, who, having apprised the authorities, measures were taken to establish their identity, and, after a post-mortem examination, to show whether they had taken poison also or not, they were interred in the English burying-ground.

THE BRUTAL MURDER NEAR CARLISLE.—William Charlton, an engine-driver on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, was apprehended on Sunday night at Carlisle on the charge of murdering the old woman, Jane Emmerson, at the Durran-hill crossing of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, and afterwards robbing her house.

Family Column.

TWELVE ADVANTAGES OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

1. They will be quite safe. Money placed in them is placed in the hands of the Government, which is bound by law to repay it when wanted.

2. They will be near to every man. He will pass them as he goes to his work and as he returns from it.

3. They will be open for eight hours of every working day. A man may walk into one and deposit his money at his own convenience, and may do this when none of his neighbours or friends are by to see what he is about.

4. They will enable men to save up money by degrees. As small a sum as one shilling can be deposited in them.

5. They will give a fair interest for the money deposited in them. If a man deposits one shilling a week in them for ten years, he will then have nearly thirty pounds of principal and interest.

6. Persons depositing money in them will not be at any expense. There will be no charge for books, or forms, or postage. There will be no entrance-fees and no fines.

7. Those who put money into them, and want it out again, can get it quickly—that is, in three or four days—and without trouble.

8. Women and children may deposit money in them in their own names.

9. If a man begins to deposit in one post office savings bank, at Huddersfield, for instance, and afterwards goes to Rochdale, or Stourbridge, or some other town, he can go on depositing wherever he may be.

10. And if he has put his money into a post office savings bank in one town, in Huddersfield, for instance, and wants it repaid to him in some other town, he can have it so repaid without difficulty.

11. The postmasters are strictly ordered not to disclose the name of any depositor in a post office savings bank, or to mention the amount he or she may have saved.

12. Lastly, those who put money into post office savings banks will have the advantage of feeling that they are doing their duty by their families and by themselves, and that they are placing their money where it will be safe until sickness, or old age, or some other cause, compels them to ask for it again.

F. I. SCUDAMORE.

THE FROST AND WATER-CISTERNS.—Doubless many of your readers are much troubled in the winter by having their cisterns, pipes, and closets frozen during inclement weather. The following remedy I have adopted in my own habitation with the greatest success—viz., put a lump of salt (the common agricultural salt will do) in the cistern once a week, and a small quantity in the closet-trap the last thing at night. This will have the desired effect and prevent much trouble and expense. The philosophy of the expedient is obvious. Water freezes at 32 deg., but salt and water will not freeze until the air is 25 deg. colder. If the cistern should be frozen it is quite sufficient to put salt therein, which will soon dissolve the frozen water. The supply-pipes must, nevertheless, be protected from the action of frost. If it can be prevented, they should not remain charged with water.—*Builder.*

HOW TO CLEAN PLASTER CASTS.—The following instructions have been given by M. Bonasse, who is, perhaps, the first maker of plaster casts in France:—"It is rather difficult to clean plaster, but the difficulty may be overcome. By means of Dutch rush or shave-grass (*Equisetum hyemale*), or exceedingly fine sand-paper, the plaster must be rubbed over in an equal manner, and in every part. The rubbing being done in a skilful manner opens the pores of the plaster; then brush it over with the thick oil used for moulding, which will give it a very pleasing yellow tint, and at the same time great solidity. If, however, a white colour is preferred, soak the cast, after the first operation has been performed, in a stearine bath. If placed in a bath of hot stearine, and allowed to remain four hours, it will acquire almost the solidity and the polish of marble."

HOW TO MAKE ORANGE MARMALADE.—Take fine ripe Seville oranges and remove the rind, throwing it, as you take it off, into a basin of cold water. Separate carefully the seeds and fibre from the pulp, and keep the pulp and juice in a basin. Let the rind steep in cold water all day and a night. The water should have a handful of salt in it, and be changed frequently, to take out the great bitterness. Next morning put the rind into fresh water without salt, and let it boil (still changing the water once or twice) till it is so tender that the head of a pin will easily pierce it. Drain the rind on a sieve, and when quite cold remove with a silver knife all the white part. Then cut it into fine strips; add all the pulp and juice, and also strained lemon-juice, in the proportion of six lemons to three dozen oranges. Weigh all this together, and for every pound take equal weight of coarse lump sugar. Let the orange boil for a few minutes before you add the sugar; then boil all till the marmalade is quite clear and of a nice consistency. It must be stirred all the time it is boiling, and the thick scum taken off as it rises. When nearly cold store it in jars for use.

THE POACHER, JAMES WALLER, who so deliberately shot the gamekeeper of Mr. Horsfall a little time ago, has been sentenced to death.

SIGHTS OF LONDON.—A HINT FOR VISITORS AT CHRISTMAS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Except holidays, from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon, when strangers are at liberty to walk through.

BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.—The botanic gardens, hothouses, and museums are open daily from one o'clock till dusk (from two on Sundays), Christmas Day also excepted, free.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—The public will be admitted from this date to the end of February, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from ten to four o'clock.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL.—The chapel may be seen for a trifling fee to the pensioner in charge of it, any day, except during Divine service on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Great Hall may likewise be seen at any time when not in use. The public are admitted to the grounds of the hospital from about ten a.m. till dusk, except during Divine service on Sunday morning.

COAL EXCHANGE MUSEUM.—The public are admitted, free, to the museum on the first Monday in each month, from twelve to four o'clock.

DULWICH GALLERY.—Every day, except Sunday, from ten to five, free.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—The Painted Hall is open every day, free, after the hour of noon, and by payment of 4d. before that hour. On all public holidays the Painted Hall is open, free, at the usual hour, for the whole of the day.

GUILDHALL.—Open daily, free. The apartments may be seen by applying to the hallkeeper.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE.—The state apartments are open gratis every day except Friday from ten till six o'clock. On Sundays after two.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—Every Saturday, between ten and four o'clock, by tickets, to be obtained gratis at the Lord Great Chamberlain's office, Old Palace-yard, between ten and four o'clock.

INDIA MUSEUM, Whitehall-yard.—Open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from ten a.m. to four p.m.

KENSINGTON GARDENS.—Open daily, free.

KENSINGTON (SOUTH) MUSEUM.—Open free on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays. The students' days are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, when the public are admitted on payment of 6d. each person. The hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays are from ten a.m. till ten p.m. On Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from ten a.m. till four.

MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, Jermyn-street.—Open every day except Friday from ten to four. Admission free.

NATIONAL GALLERY, Trafalgar-square.—Open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, free.

NATIONAL GALLERY, South Kensington.—Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, free.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, 29, Great George-street, Westminster.—Wednesdays and Saturdays, from twelve to four o'clock between Michaelmas and Easter. From Easter till Michaelmas it is open till five o'clock. Admission free.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—Charges to the whispering gallery and the two outside galleries, 6d.; to the ball, 1s. 6d.; to the library, great bell and geometrical staircase, and model rooms, 6d.; and to the clock, 2d.; the crypt, 6d. Services: Sunday, 9.45 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.; special, 7 p.m. Morning prayers daily at 8 a.m., and afternoon at 4.

ROYAL MINT, Tower-hill.—By an order from the Master's Office, Little Tower-hill.

TOWER OF LONDON.—Open daily at 10.30 till 4 o'clock. Tickets to be obtained at the entrance gate. A warder is in attendance every half hour to conduct parties in waiting. Admission to the armouries, 6d. each; to the crown jewels, 6d.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION, Whitehall.—By member's order, between the hours of eleven and five in summer, and eleven and four in winter.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—To view the whole of the Abbey, enter at Poets' Corner door, Old Palace-yard. Vergers are in attendance from nine to six every day in summer, and from eleven to half past two in winter, except Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day, and General Fasts. There is no charge for admission to the nave, transept, and cloisters; but the fee to view the choir and chapels is 6d. each person, with the attendance of a guide. Choir services every day, including Sundays, at ten a.m. and three p.m.

WESTMINSTER HALL.—Free during the whole day, or any hour at which Parliament or the Low Courts are sitting.

WINDSOR CASTLE.—The state apartments are open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

WOOLWICH ARSENAL, DOCKYARDS, &c.—Admission free to the Royal Arsenal on Tuesdays, by letter from the Under Secretary of War. Admission free to the Dockyard every day, from nine to eleven, and from a quarter past one to three p.m. in winter; and from nine to eleven and from half-past one to five p.m. in summer. Foreigners must obtain an order, through their respective ambassadors, from the Admiralty to view the Dockyard, and from the Ordnance Office, to view the Arsenal and Repository.

AN ECCENTRIC OLD GENTLEMEN died suddenly of apoplexy in the Tuileries garden the other day. In his will he provided that after death his face was to be coated over with pitch, his mouth and nostrils hermetically sealed, and an incision made in his heart. He was also to be buried without a coffin, and the earth well trod down over him.

J. GILBERT'S PARAGON BIBLE, 10s. 6d. Superior type, best morocco, gilt rims and clasp, beautifully illustrated with Illuminated Titles (designed expressly for this book, by Samuel Stanesby), Steel Plates, and Coloured Maps. A really handsome present.

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THE MAID OF THE WOOLPACK, a Story by ANDREW HALLIDAY. Illustrated by ARTHUR B. HOUGHTON, forms the principal feature in the CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF ENTERTAINING THINGS. 48 pages, profusely illustrated, price 3d.

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NEW GRAND HISTORICAL ROMANCE.

MARY TUDOR; or, the Queen, the Priest, and the Maiden, will commence in the January Number of THE WHATNOT, or Ladies' Handy Book, an Illustrated Magazine of Fiction, Fashion, and Fancy Work. Price 3d. monthly.

The Annual Volume, cloth extra, gilt, forming a most appropriate Christmas Present, is now ready, price 4s.

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CAPTAIN MAYNE REID'S NEW TALE, "THE MAROON," will be commenced in No. 216 of CASSELL'S FAMILY PAPER, price One Penny, with which will be PRESENTED GRATUITOUSLY a beautiful ENGRAVING (after Leslie) of "Sir Roger De Coverley Surrounded by his Tenants." To prevent disappointment orders should be given immediately.

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QUEENSLAND: a Faithful Account of this Important Colony. By GEORGE WIGHT, two years and a half resident. With Coloured Map. Post-free, 3s. 4d.

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NOTICE.—To show the importance of this publication, the following letter received from a lady will be read with interest:—49, Marine View, Ramsgate, July 13, 1860.—Gentlemen, sincere thanks for your precious book. My family will have occasion to pray for your happiness. For years we have despaired until directed to your announcement. I procured the Book, when, conceive my feelings at discovering an advertisement wanting a claimant to Four Thousand Pounds' worth of property left by my late husband's uncle. The solicitors have acknowledged our claim, and you shall shortly hear further from your ever-grateful servant, &c.—Signed, MARIA BAXTER.

Many of such letters we could publish, if space would permit.

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50 VISITING CARDS in ONE HOUR.—A Copper Plate engraved in the best style, 1s.; 50 best ivory cards, 1s., post-free. WEDDING CARDS: 50 each, for lady and gentleman; 50 embossed Envelopes, maiden name printed on flap, all complete, 13s. 6d., carriage-free.—T. CULLETON, Seal Engraver, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane).

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PHILIP ROSE, Hon. Sec.
HENRY DOBBIN, Sec.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—The Committee of this Institution earnestly APPEAL to the Public for HELP to aid them to meet the present heavy expenses on some new Life-boat Stations which have just been completed. 410 lives have been saved from various wrecks by the Life-boats of the Society during the past 21 months. Contributions are received by all the Bankers in London and throughout the United Kingdom; also by the Secretary, at the office of the Institution, 14, John-street, Adelphi, London.

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